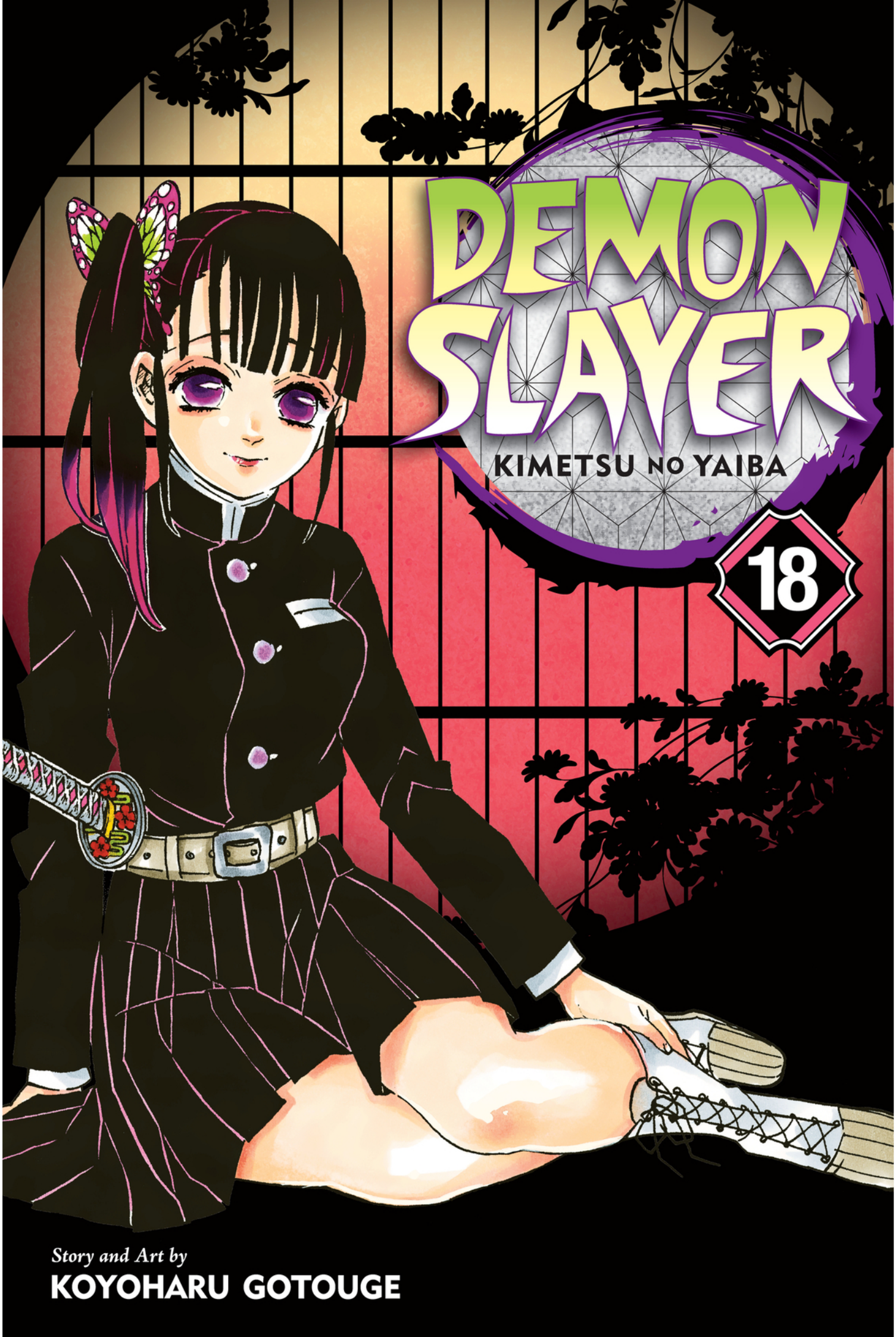
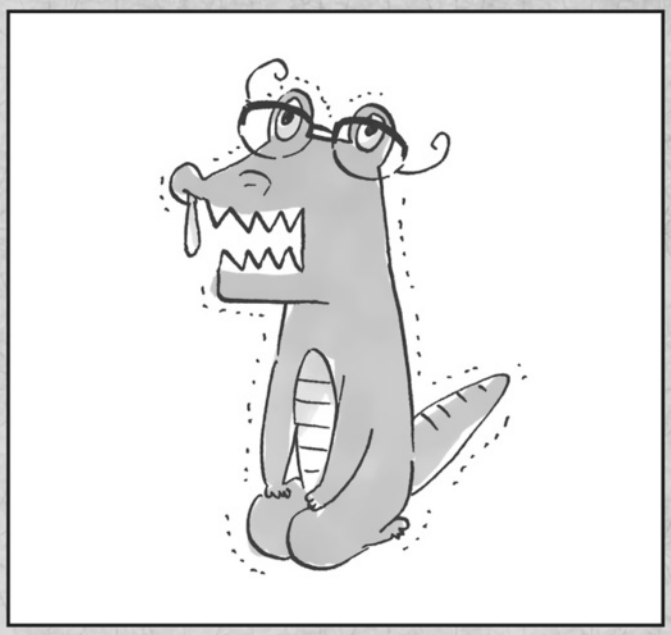

DEMON SLAYER
KIMETSU NO YAIBA
18
Story and Art by
KOYOHARU GOTOUGE



KOYOHARU GOTOUGE

Hi! I'm Gotouge. Volume 18 is out. Thank you very much to everyone who supports the series. Thanks to the wonderful anime they made, it seems more people have been picking up the graphic novels, for which I'm incredibly grateful. I had no idea this would happen, so I'm trembling for many reasons. I took my comforter to the cleaner's at a poor time, so I'm cold every day. But until the day I get it back, I'll wear multiple layers and work hard.

DEMON SLAYER:
KIMETSU NO YAIBA
VOLUME 18
Shonen Jump Edition

Story and Art by
KOYOHARU GOTOUGE

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DEMON SLAYER: KIMETSU NO YAIBA is rated T for Teen and recommended for ages 13 and up. This volume contains realistic and fantasy violence.

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DEMON SLAYER

KIMETSU NO YAIBA

18

ASSAULTED BY MEMORIES

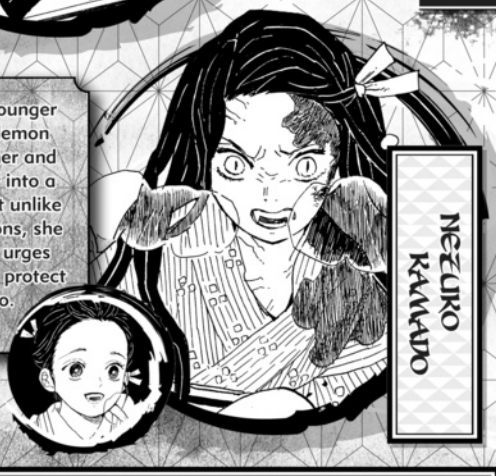
KOYOHARU GOTOUGE

CHARACTERS

TANJIRO KAMADO

A kind boy who saved his sister and now aims to avenge his family. He can smell the scent of demons and an opponent's weakness.

NEZUKO KAMADO



Tanjiro's younger sister. A demon attacked her and turned her into a demon. But unlike other demons, she fights her urges and tries to protect Tanjiro.

GIYU TOMIOKA

The Hashira who invited Tanjiro to join the Demon Slayer Corps. He has always cared about Tanjiro.

INOSUKE HASHIBIRA

He also went through Final Selection at the same time as Tanjiro. He wears the pelt of a wild boar and is very belligerent.

ZENITSU AGATSUMA

He went through Final Selection at the same time as Tanjiro. He's usually cowardly, but when he falls asleep, his true power comes out.

MUZAN KIBUTSUJI

Kibutsuji turned Nezuko into a demon. He is Tanjiro's enemy and hides his nature in order to live among human beings.

KANAO TSUYURI

Successor to Shinobu. She doesn't talk much and has difficulty making any kind of decision by herself.

SHINOBU KOCHO

Another Hashira in the Demon Slayer Corps. Familiar with pharmacology, she is a swordswoman who has created a poison that kills demons.

AKAZA: UPPER RANK 3

The demon who killed Kyojuro Rengoku, the Flame Hashira of the Demon Slayer Corps. He burns with desire for revenge against Tanjiro.

DOMA: UPPER RANK 2

He's the demon who killed Shinobu Kocho's older sister Kanae and founded the Eternal Paradise Faith.

STORY

In Taisho-era Japan, young Tanjiro makes a living selling charcoal. One day, demons kill his family and turn his younger sister Nezuko into a demon. Tanjiro and Nezuko set out to find a way to return Nezuko to human form and defeat Kibutsuji, the demon who killed their family!

After joining the Demon Slayer Corps, Tanjiro meets Tamayo and Yushiro—demons who oppose Kibutsuji—who provide a clue to how Nezuko may be turned back into a human.

During a fierce fight against an upper-rank demon, Nezuko manifests the ability to withstand sunlight, so Kibutsuji comes after her and attacks Ubuyashiki Mansion. The the Demon Slayers pursue Kibutsuji into Infinity Castle! Tanjiro and Giyu, the Water Hashira, engage in a difficult struggle against the Upper Rank 3 demon Akaza…

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DEMON SLAYER
KIMETSU NO YAIBA

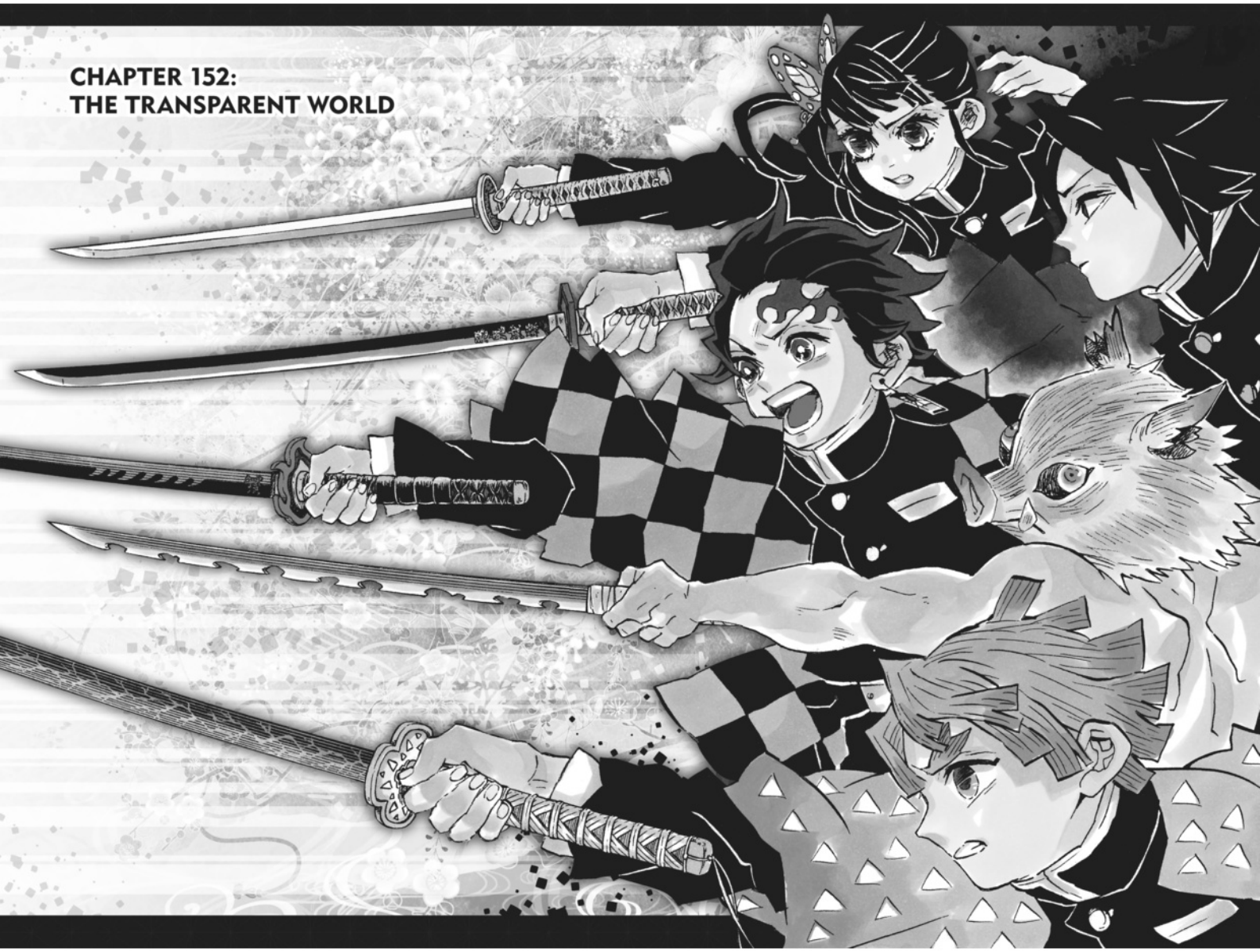
18

REMINISCENCE ASSAULT

WHEN I ENTERED THE TRANSPARENT WORLD THAT MY FATHER TAUGHT ME ABOUT...
...I DRAMATI-CALLY INCREASED THE SPEED WITH WHICH I COULD PREDICT HIS MOVES...
...AND EVADE HIS ATTACKS.

CHAPTER 152: THE TRANSPARENT WORLD

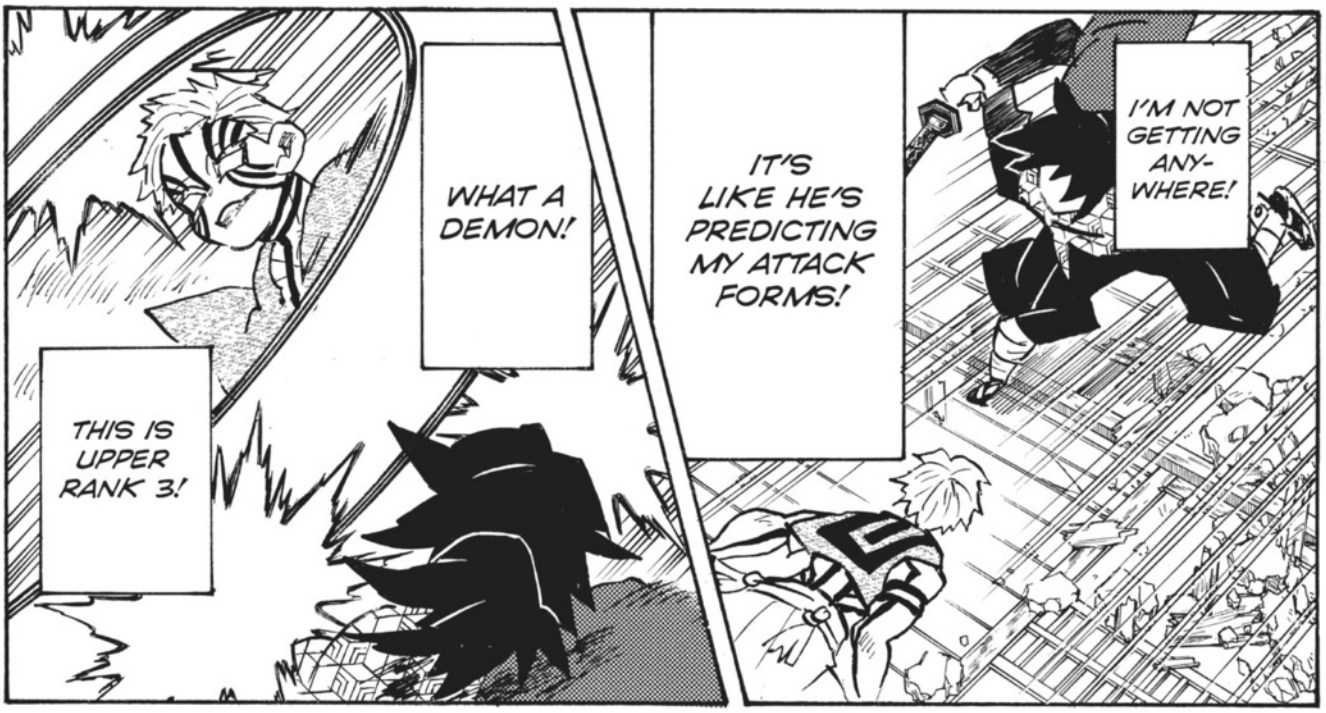
AKAZA MAY BE SENSING MY FIGHTING SPIRIT, BUT IF I CLOSE IT OFF I MAY BE ABLE TO AIM FOR HIS HEAD.
I'VE ALSO GOT A FASTER AND CLEARER AWARENESS OF THE CONTRAC-TIONS OF MY OWN MUSCLES.
HIS BREATHING AND THE FLOW OF HIS BLOOD BECAME TRANS-PARENT TO ME.


CHAPTER 152:
THE TRANSPARENT WORLD

Inosuke before the previous two-page spread.
No, Inosuke! Everyone is facing the other way!
THRUST
THRUST
HOP
HOP

BAM
SPURT
!!
SPURT

DAMN! I BARELY CUT HIM! IT WAS TOO SHALLOW!
IS THIS A DIFFER-ENCE IN SKILL?
EVEN IF I MAKE A STRONG, ACCURATE ATTACK, HE RESPONDS WITH AN EQUALLY SHARP TECHNIQUE.


I'M NOT GETTING ANY-WHERE!
IT'S LIKE HE'S PREDICTING MY ATTACK FORMS!
WHAT A DEMON!
THIS IS UPPER RANK 3!

HE'S A KILLING MACHINE!
HE'S CAST ASIDE EVERY-THING EXCEPT FIGHTING!

IT APPEARS YOU'VE ALREADY USED ALL YOUR WATER FORMS!
THAT'S ENOUGH, GIYU.
LET'S END THIS.
I'M SURPRISED YOU LASTED THIS LONG!!

PAY ATTENTION ...
WATCH CLOSELY...
HUFF
HUFF
GW
OOO

SNAP
IMPOS-
SIBLE!
HE HIT THE INCOMING BLADE FROM THE SIDE AND BROKE IT!
GOODBYE!

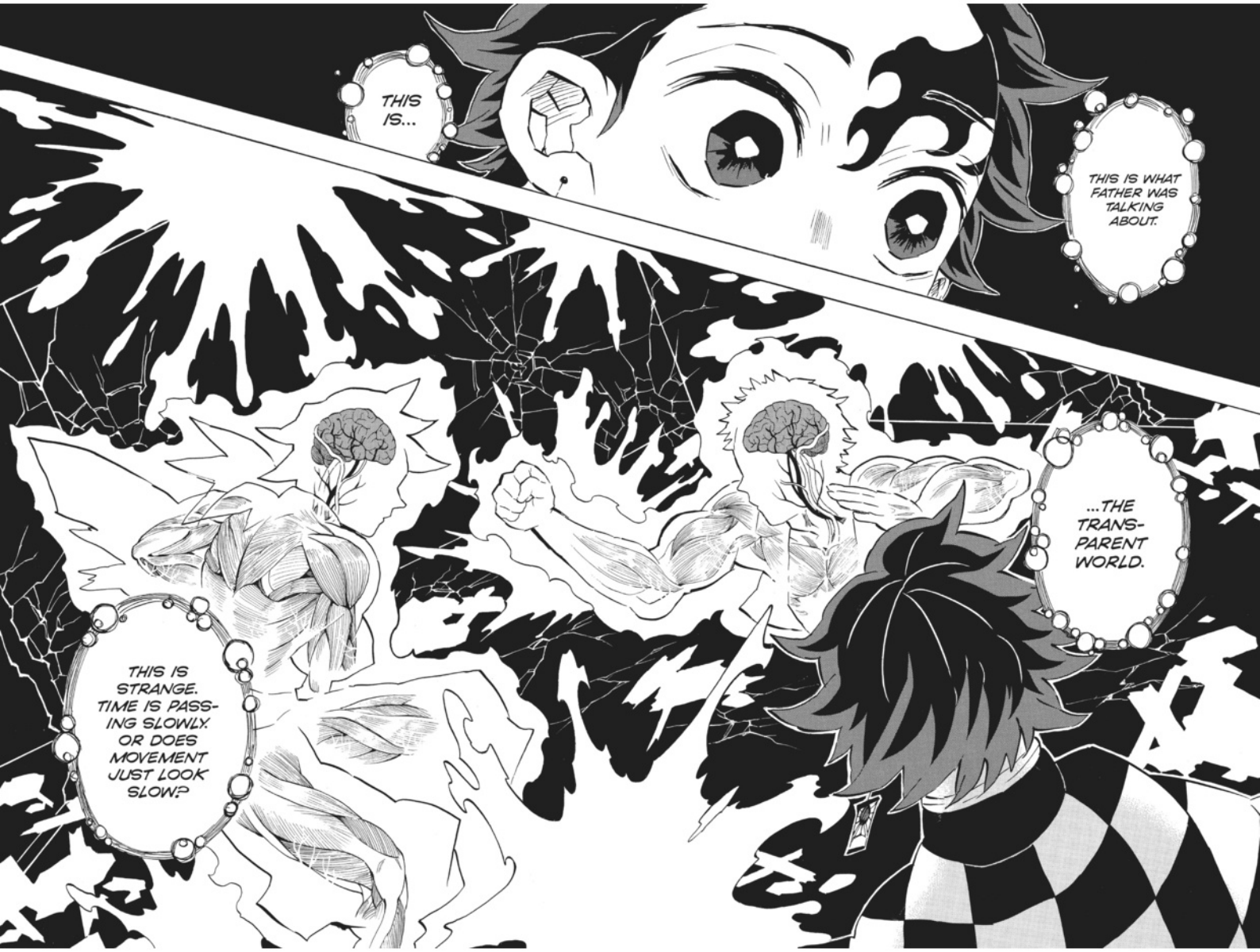
THUNK

GAGH
PUNK

GNOOOOOOO
BABA
TANJIRO CUT AKAZA'S ARM OFF AND STOPPED THE ATTACK.
THE SOUND OF HIS BREATHING IS DIFFERENT. HIS HAIR AND EYES LOOK DIFFERENT TOO.
TANJIRO SAVED ME.

EVERY FIBER OF MY BEING, DOWN TO EACH STRAND OF HAIR, IS TELLING ME TO KILL THIS KID RIGHT NOW.
SOMETHING CHANGED IN HIM.
HE'S DANGER-OUS!!
TECHNIQUE DEVELOPMENT
WHSH
KOMP

THE SPEED OF HIS ATTACKS IS INCREASING AGAIN!!
HIS POWER IS INCREASING!!
CAN I WITHSTAND IT?! WITH DEAD CALM?!
BLUE SILVER CHAOTIC AFTERGLOW!
FINAL FORM:

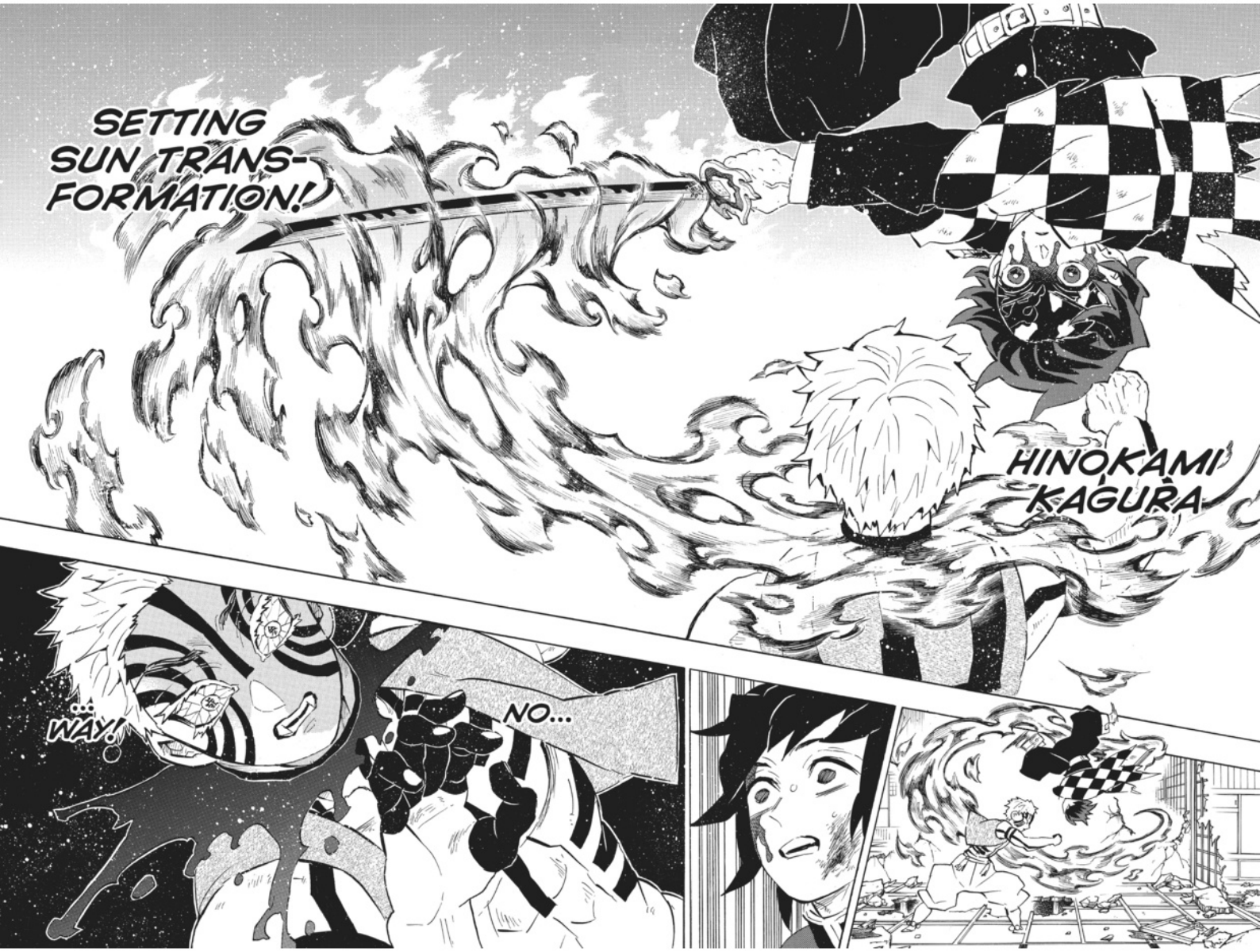

THIS IS...
THIS IS WHAT FATHER WAS TALKING ABOUT.
...THE TRANS-PARENT WORLD.
THIS IS STRANGE. TIME IS PASS-ING SLOWLY. OR DOES MOVEMENT JUST LOOK SLOW?

I COULDN'T BLOCK ALL OF THEM EVEN WITH DEAD CALM!!
IT WAS INESCAP-ABLE.
HE HIT ME WITH A HUNDRED BLOWS ALMOST ALL AT ONCE.
WELL DONE. I'M IMPRESSED YOU'RE STILL ALIVE.
SOME-HOW YOU DODGED A FATAL BLOW, EH?

DON'T DIE LIKE KYOJURO AND TANJIRO.
YOU SHOULD BECOME A DEMON TOO, GIYU.
CAN'T HE SENSE HIM?!
TANJIRO IS BEHIND HIM!
?!
HE HASN'T NOTICED!!
NOW...
GO FOR HIS NECK!!
...BEFORE HE NOTICES YOU!
TAKE HIM, TANJIRO!!
SINCE YOU CAN STILL MOVE, DO IT...

I'M GOING TO CUT OFF YOUR HEAD!!
AKAZA !!
THE FOOL CALLED OUT TO HIM!!

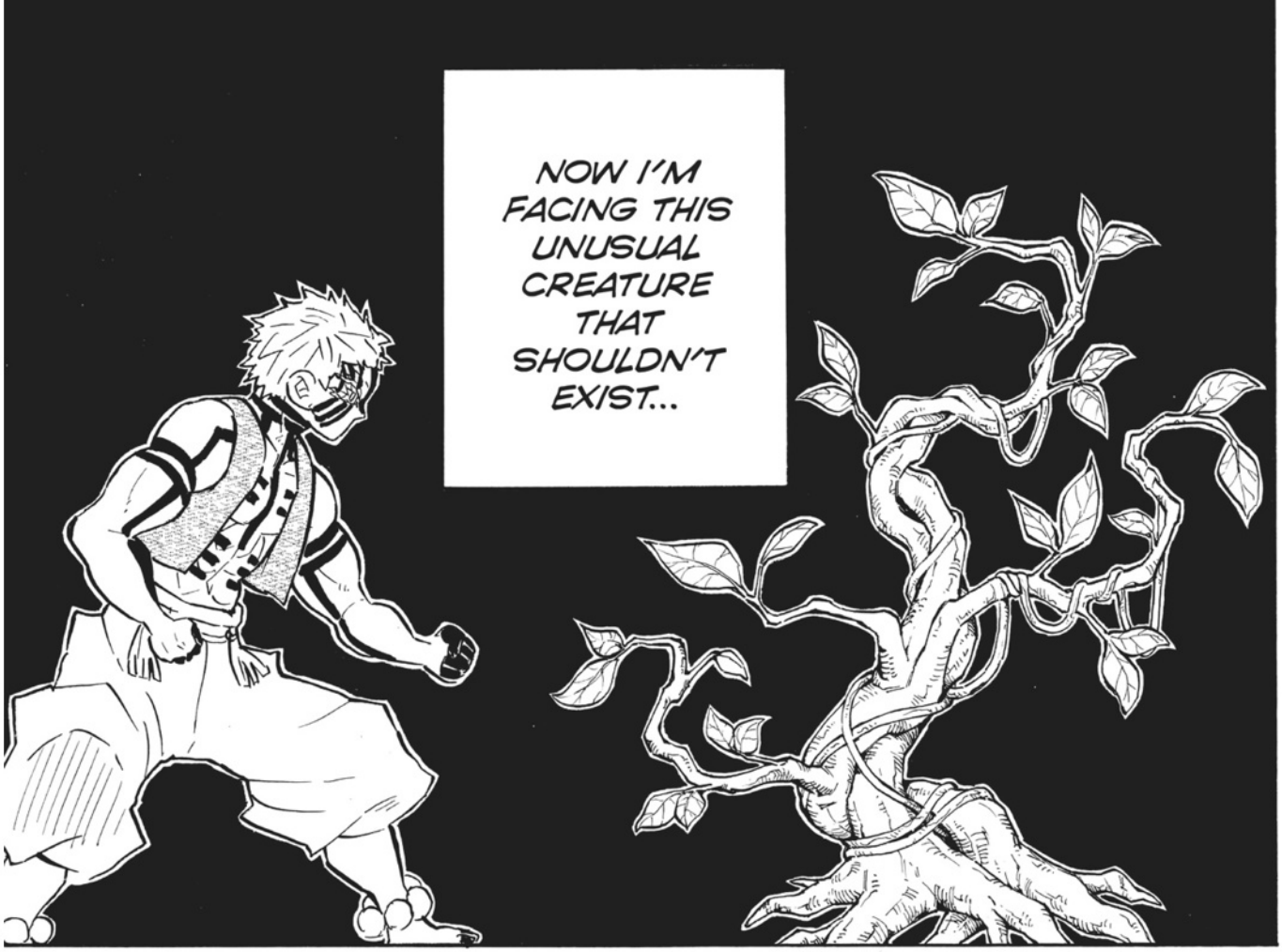
HE'S ALIVE!! EVEN AFTER MY LAST STRIKE?!
MY DESTRUCTIVE DEATH: COMPASS NEEDLE CAN DETECT ANY ATTACK.
WELL, NO BOTHER.
THE STRONGER MY OPPONENT'S FIGHTING SPIRIT, THE STRONGER THE RESPONSE OF MY COMPASS NEEDLE.
...
WHAT?
...
WHAT IS THIS ODD AURA ABOUT HIM?
IT'S LIKE HE'S BECOME A DIFFERENT CREATURE.
HIS...
HIS FIGHTING SPIRIT IS GONE!
HE HAS NO FIGHTING SPIRIT!!
GET A GRIP!!
HERE HE COMES!!


SETTING SUN TRANS-FORMATION!
HINOKAMI KAGURA
...WAY!
NO...

What're you doing?!
Hey!!
Yushiro scattering eyes

CHAPTER 153: PULLED

TMP
IN THE LAST FEW HUNDRED YEARS...
...I'VE NEVER ONCE SEEN A HUMAN BEING WITHOUT FIGHTING SPIRIT.
EVEN A BABY HAS A FAINT FIGHTING SPIRIT.
BUT IN THAT MOMENT, HIS FIGHTING SPIRIT DISAPPEARED.

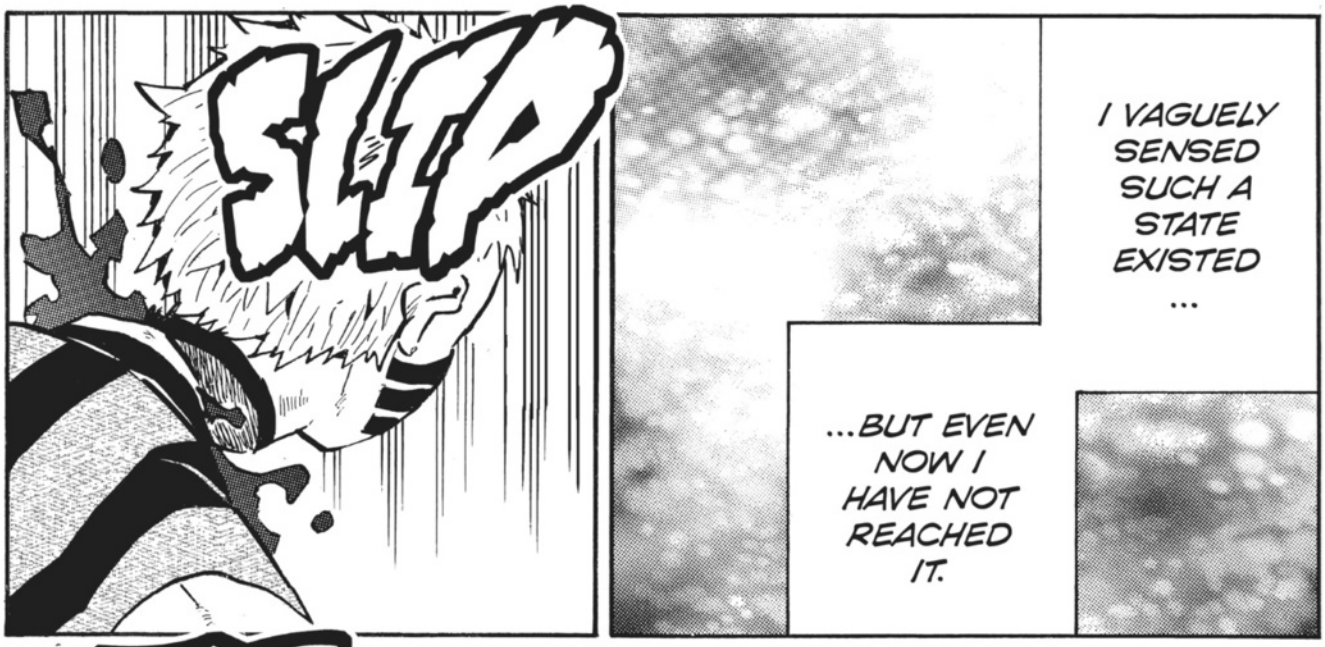

NOW I'M FACING THIS UNUSUAL CREATURE THAT SHOULDN'T EXIST...

MY COMPASS DIDN'T RESPOND.
...AND MY SENSES ARE CONFUSED.

...EVERY UNEXPECTED SITUATION YOU ENCOUNTER.
...YOU MUST IMMEDIATELY UNDERSTAND AND HANDLE...
IN BATTLE...
BUT THAT'S NOT A PROBLEM.
I CAN DO THAT.

OR SO I THOUGHT.
BUT...
...IN THIS BRIEF FIGHT, HE GRASPED SOMETHING AND SURPASSED MY SPEED.
...HUNDREDS OF YEARS OF MARTIAL ARTS.
HE CAME AT ME HEAD-ON AND COMPLETELY DEMOLISHED ...
PERHAPS WHAT HIS EYES PERCEIVED WAS...
NO MALEVOLENCE OR FIGHTING SPIRIT.
IN HIS EYES, THERE IS NO HATRED OR ANGER.

NOTHING LESS THAN A SELFLESS STATE.
...THE DOMAIN OF SUPREMACY I'VE BEEN SEEKING.


SLIP
I VAGUELY SENSED SUCH A STATE EXISTED ...
...BUT EVEN NOW I HAVE NOT REACHED IT.

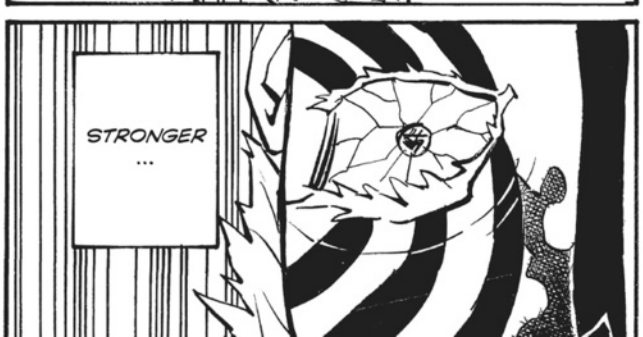
GRIP

NO!! I CAN STILL FIGHT!!
I WILL GROW STRON-GER YET!

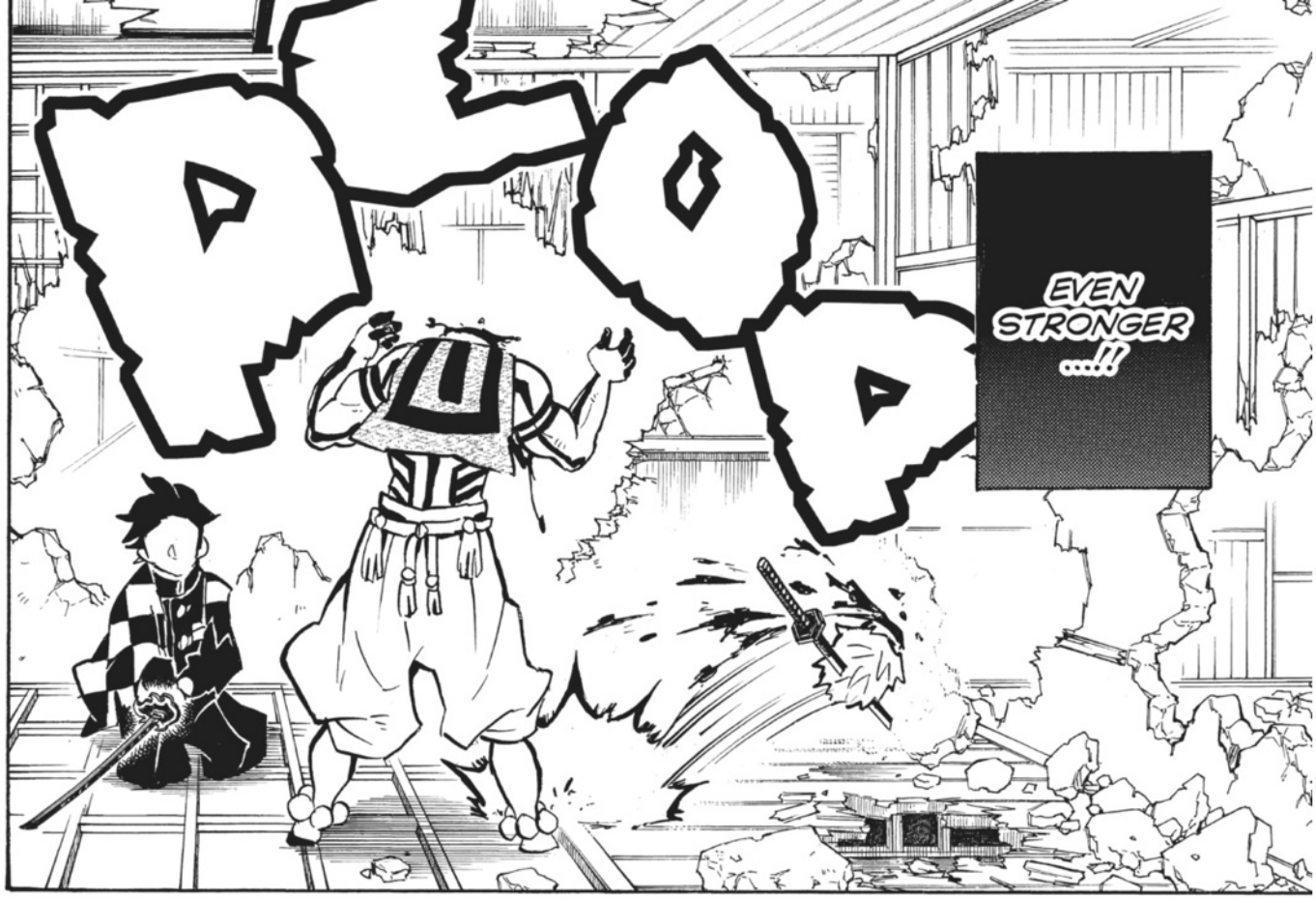
HIS HEAD!!
IS HE TRYING TO PUT IT BACK ON?!

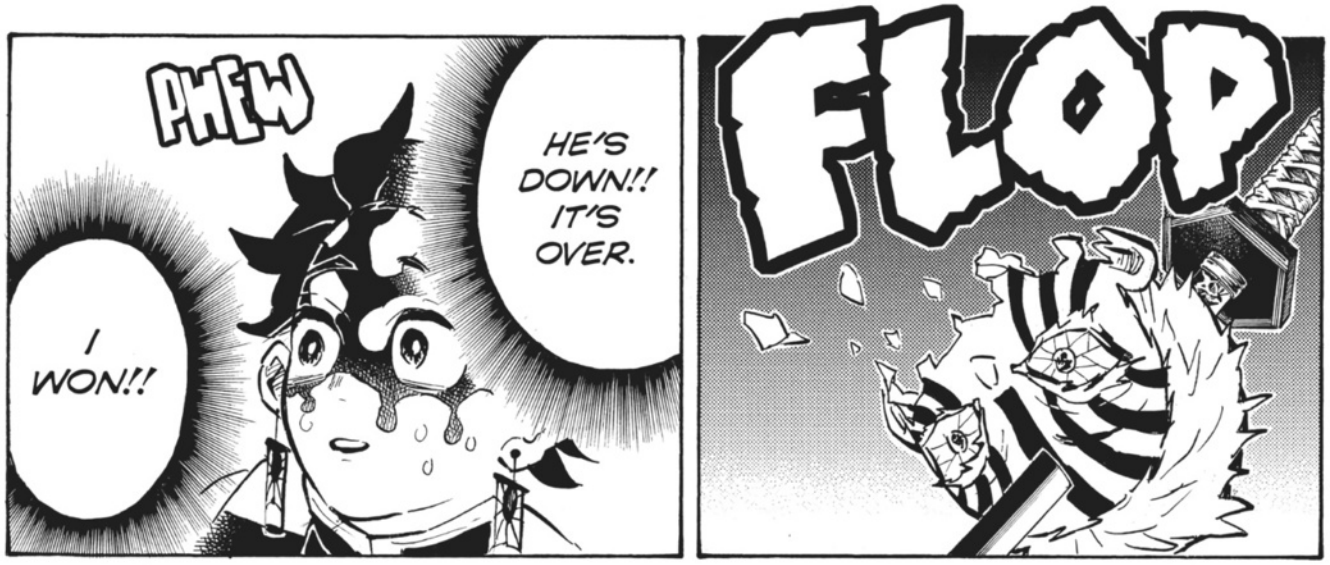
NK

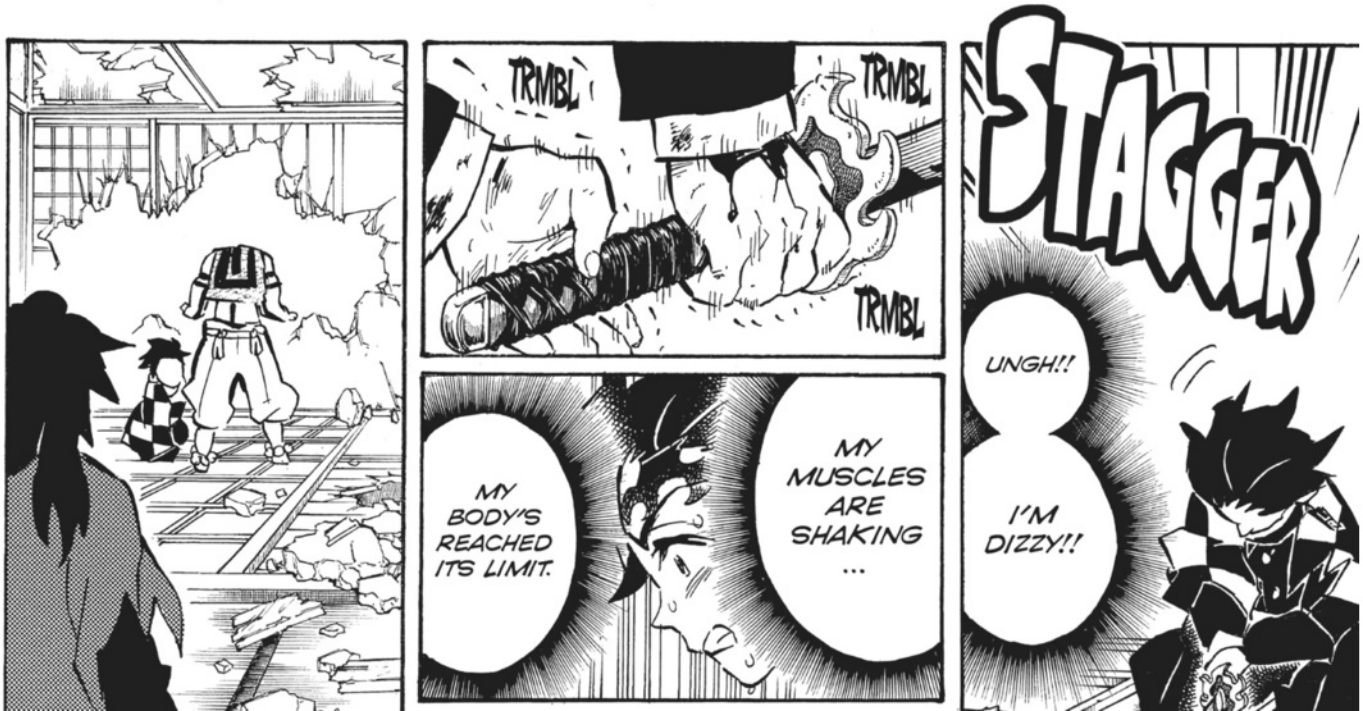
I MUST BECOME STRONGER THAN ANY-ONE ELSE!

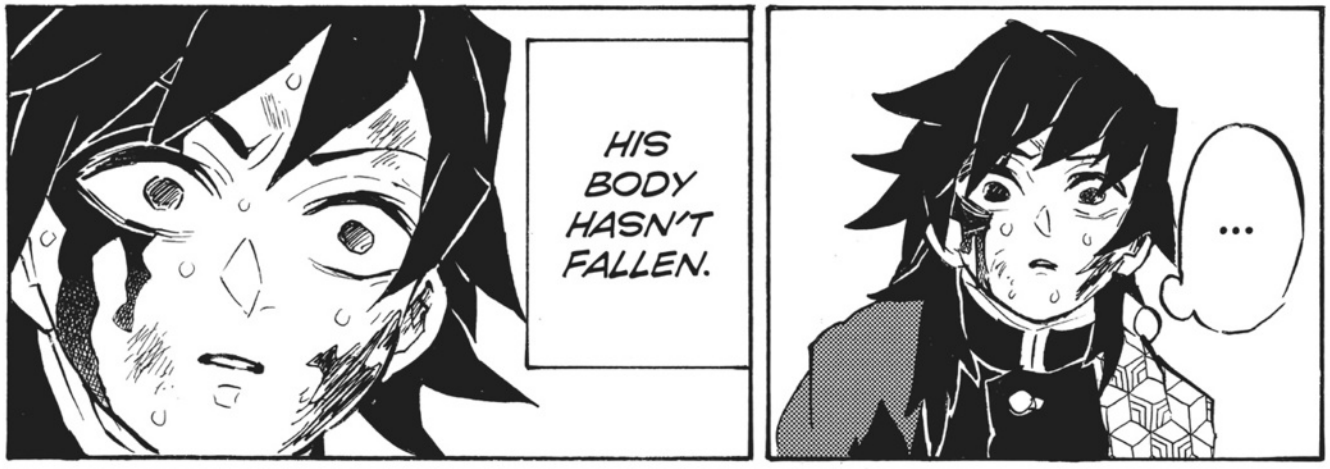

STRONGER ...

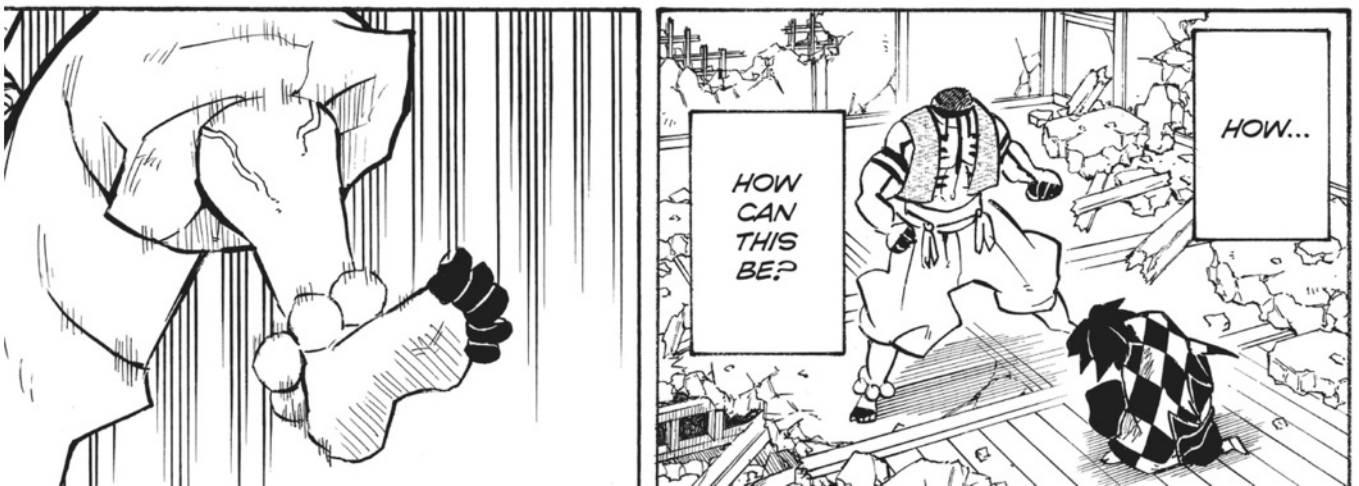
I WILL BECOME STRONGER.
IT CAN'T END LIKE THIS.


FLOP
EVEN STRONGER ...!!


PHEW
I WON!!
HE'S DOWN!! IT'S OVER.
FLOP


TRMBL
TRMBL
TRMBL
MY BODY'S REACHED ITS LIMIT.
MY MUSCLES ARE SHAKING ...
STAGGER
UNGH!!
I'M DIZZY!!


HIS BODY HASN'T FALLEN.
...

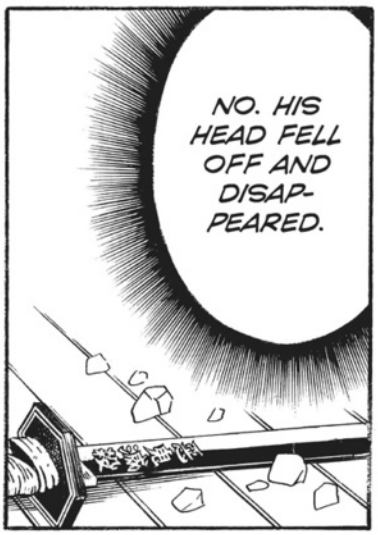

HOW CAN THIS BE?
HOW...

WHAT
?!
ドドド

CHOP
WHSH
HE'S STILL MOVING!! HIS BODY ISN'T GOING DOWN!
BWUP
BWUP
HIS NECK WOUND CLOSED!!
STAGGER
UGH... MY HEAD IS SPINNING!!

WHOOSH
FWAM
GRND

KNOCK
GUH...!


NO. HIS HEAD FELL OFF AND DISAP-PEARED.

IS THERE A SPECIAL CONDITION LIKE WITH GYUTARO AND DAKI?

NO WAY!!
I CUT OFF HIS HEAD, BUT HE DIDN'T DIE!!

...INTO SOMETHING DIFFER-ENT!!
AKAZA...
...IS TRYING TO CHANGE...

JUST LIKE MUZAN...
...HE'S TRYING TO MAKE HIS WEAKNESS BE SOMETHING OTHER THAN HIS HEAD!!
THIS ISN'T OVER.
THE FIGHT IS STILL...
SHOOP
TANJIRO!!
WHMP
HE PASSED OUT!! OF COURSE!!
HE'S WAY PAST HIS LIMIT!!

WATER BREATHING FOURTH FORM:
STRIKING TIDE!

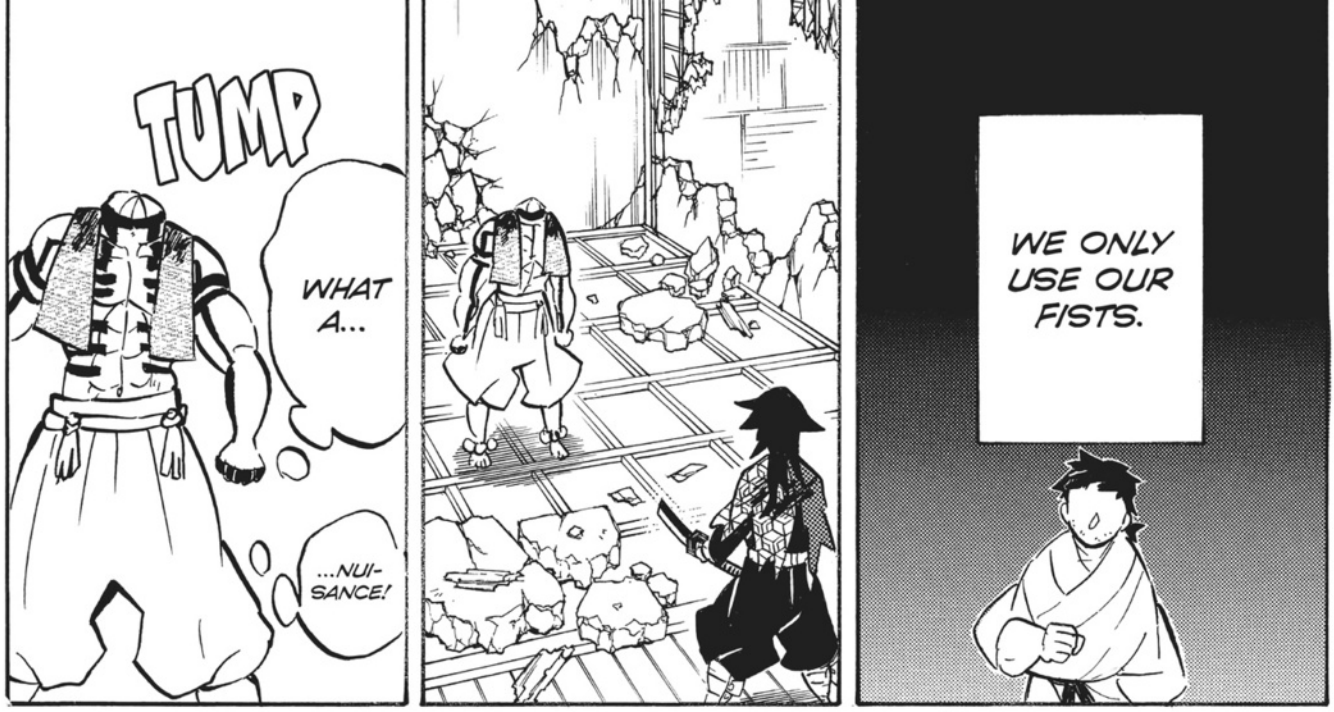
SHARP
HE'S SO FAST DESPITE LOSING HIS HEAD!!
HE REGENERATED !!
BA BAM

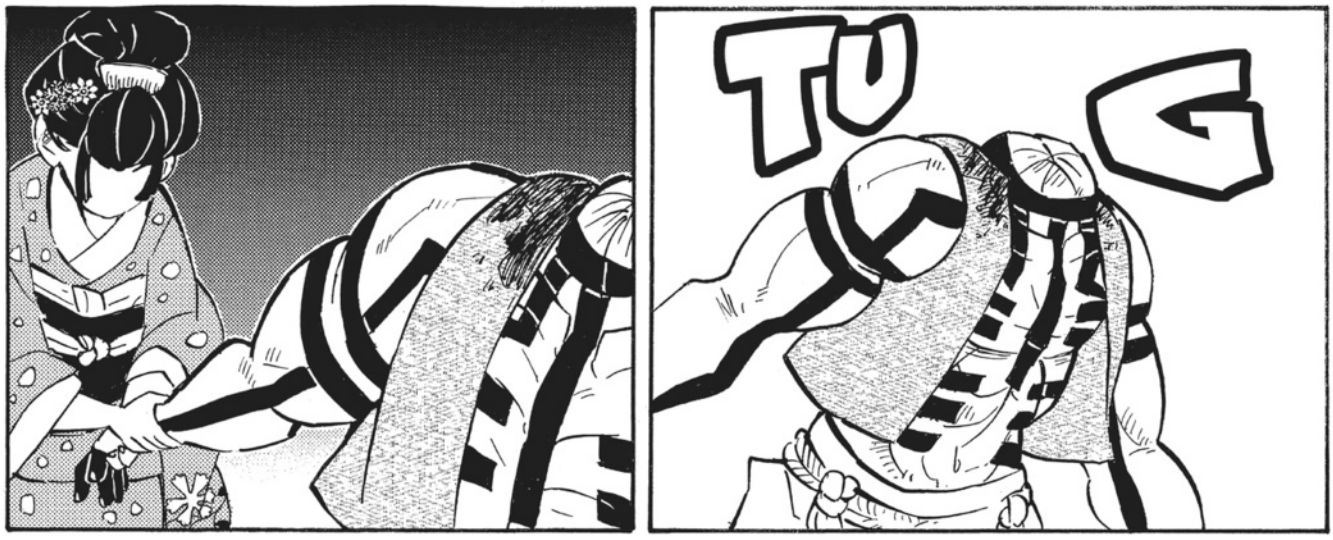
HNNGH
WAIT.
I AM... STILL...
...ALIVE !!

IF YOU WANT TO KILL TANJIRO...
...FIRST DEFEAT ME!!

OUR INDOMI-TABLE SPIRIT...
IN WHATEVER HARDSHIP WE FACE, IT NEVER BREAKS.

WE ARE NOT SAMURAI. WE DO NOT CARRY A KATANA.
BUT WE CARRY SWORDS IN OUR HEARTS.

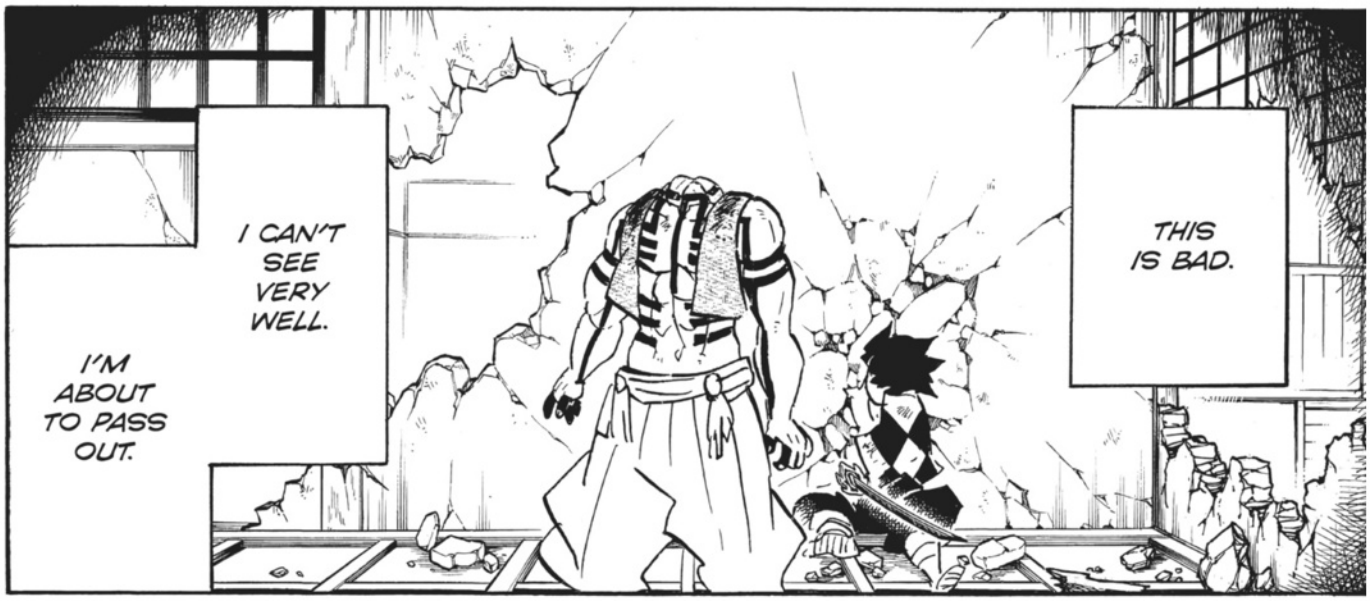

TUMP
WHAT A...
...NUI-SANCE!
WE ONLY USE OUR FISTS.

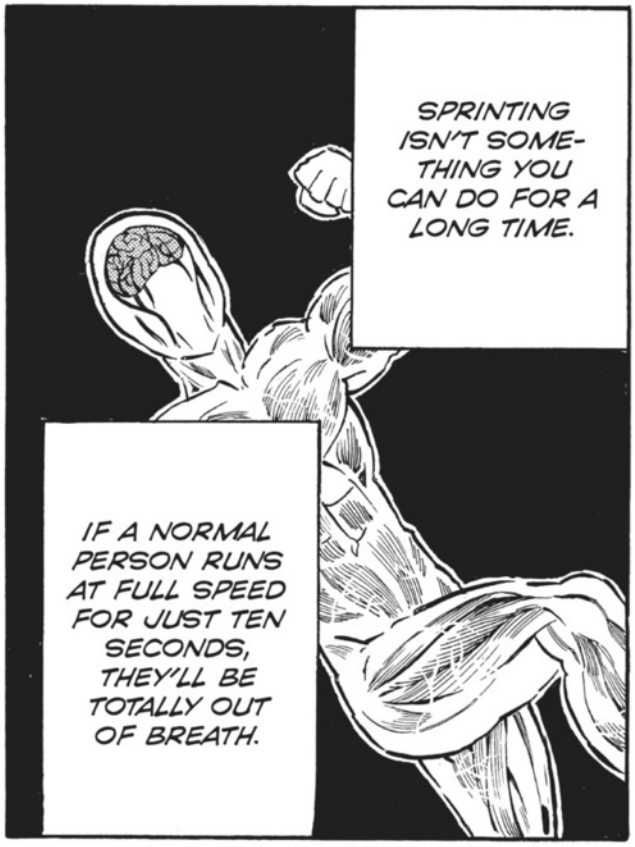

TU
G

HAKUJI, THAT'S ENOUGH!

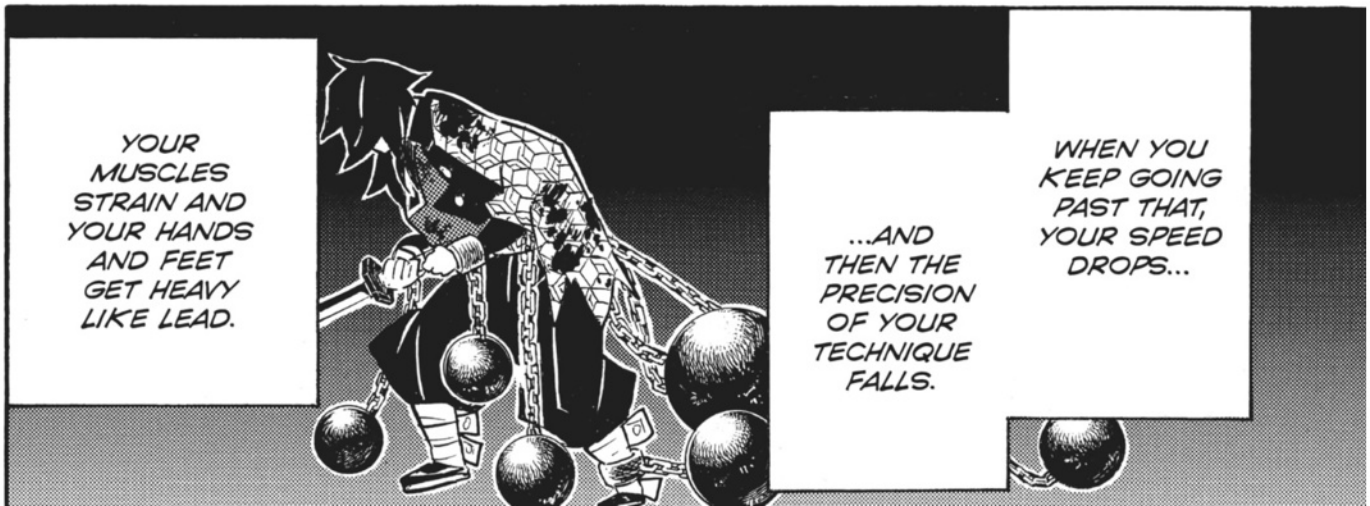
While waiting for Yushiro, they neglected to pay attention to their footing and fell.
GYAI-EEE!
Gah! Murata!! Agatsuma!!

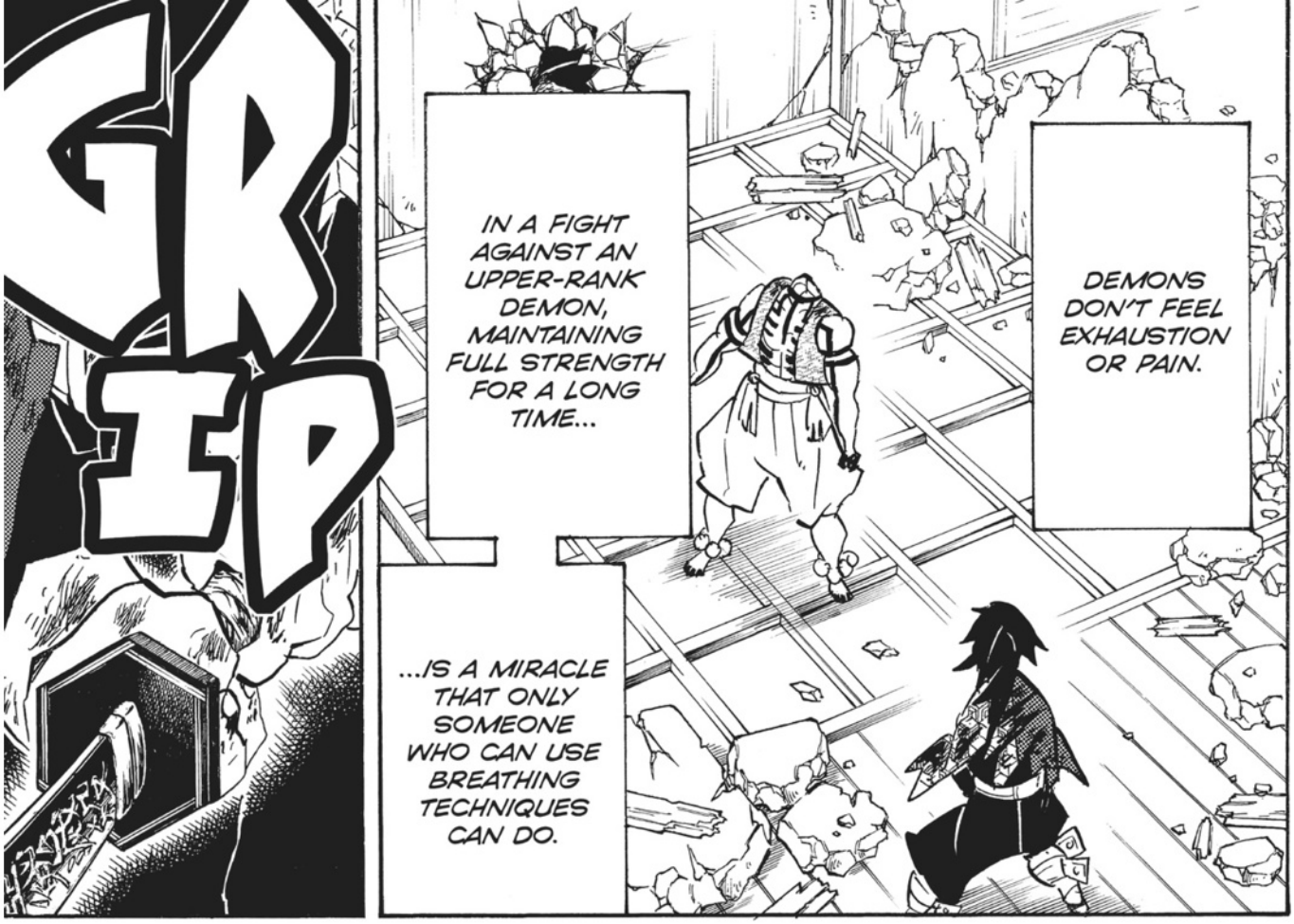
CHAPTER 154: ASSAULTED BY MEMORIES


I'M ABOUT TO PASS OUT.
I CAN'T SEE VERY WELL.
THIS IS BAD.

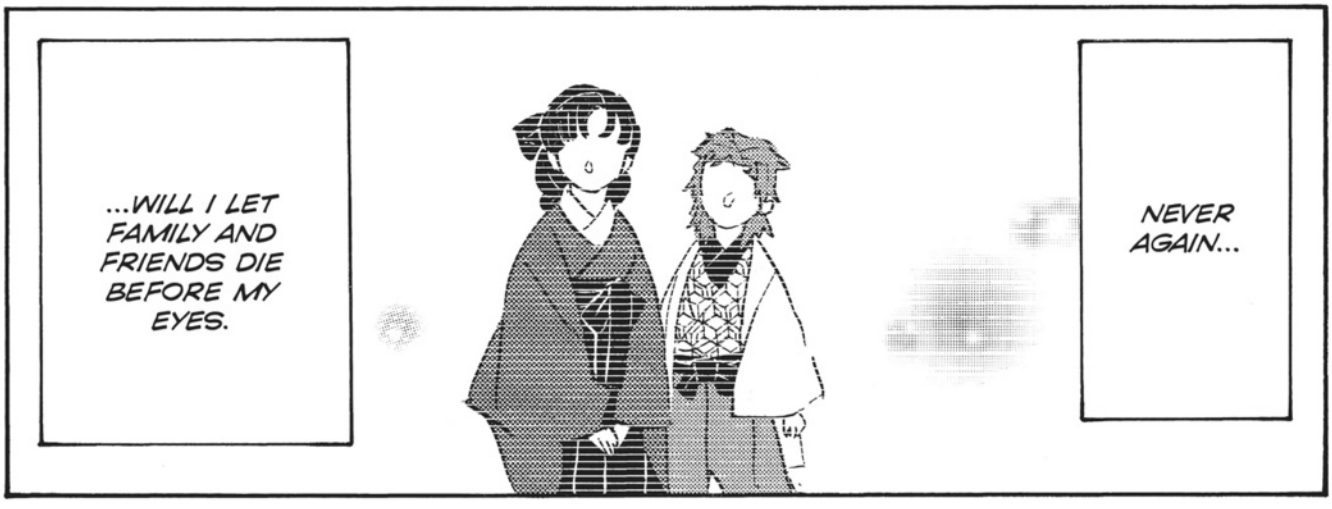

SPRINTING ISN'T SOMETHING YOU CAN DO FOR A LONG TIME.
IF A NORMAL PERSON RUNS AT FULL SPEED FOR JUST TEN SECONDS, THEY'LL BE TOTALLY OUT OF BREATH.

I CAN'T HEAR ANYTHING AT ALL WITH MY LEFT EAR.
MY RIGHT HAND HAS NO FEELING. I HAVE STRENGTH, BUT FOR HOW LONG?

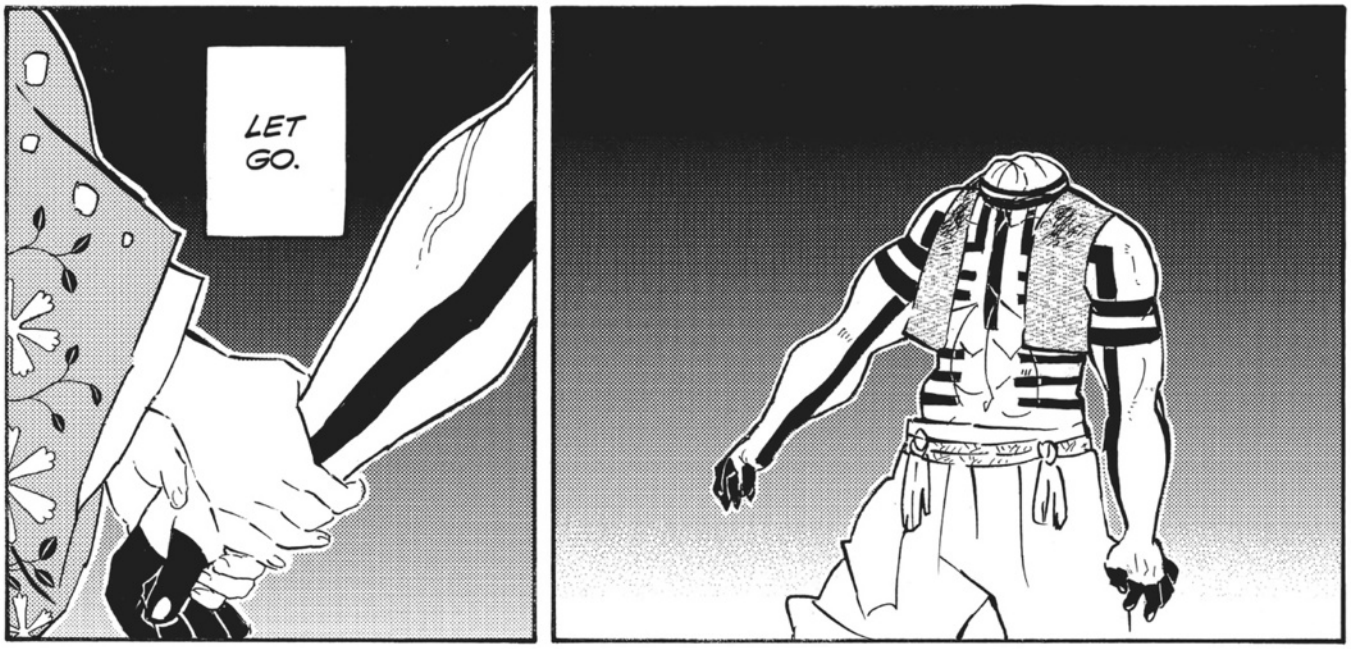

YOUR MUSCLES STRAIN AND YOUR HANDS AND FEET GET HEAVY LIKE LEAD.
...AND THEN THE PRECISION OF YOUR TECHNIQUE FALLS.
WHEN YOU KEEP GOING PAST THAT, YOUR SPEED DROPS...


IN A FIGHT AGAINST AN UPPER-RANK DEMON, MAINTAINING FULL STRENGTH FOR A LONG TIME...
DEMONS DON'T FEEL EXHAUSTION OR PAIN.
...IS A MIRACLE THAT ONLY SOMEONE WHO CAN USE BREATHING TECHNIQUES CAN DO.

...WHAT WAS ENTRUSTED TO ME.
I MUST PASS ON...


...WILL I LET FAMILY AND FRIENDS DIE BEFORE MY EYES.
NEVER AGAIN...

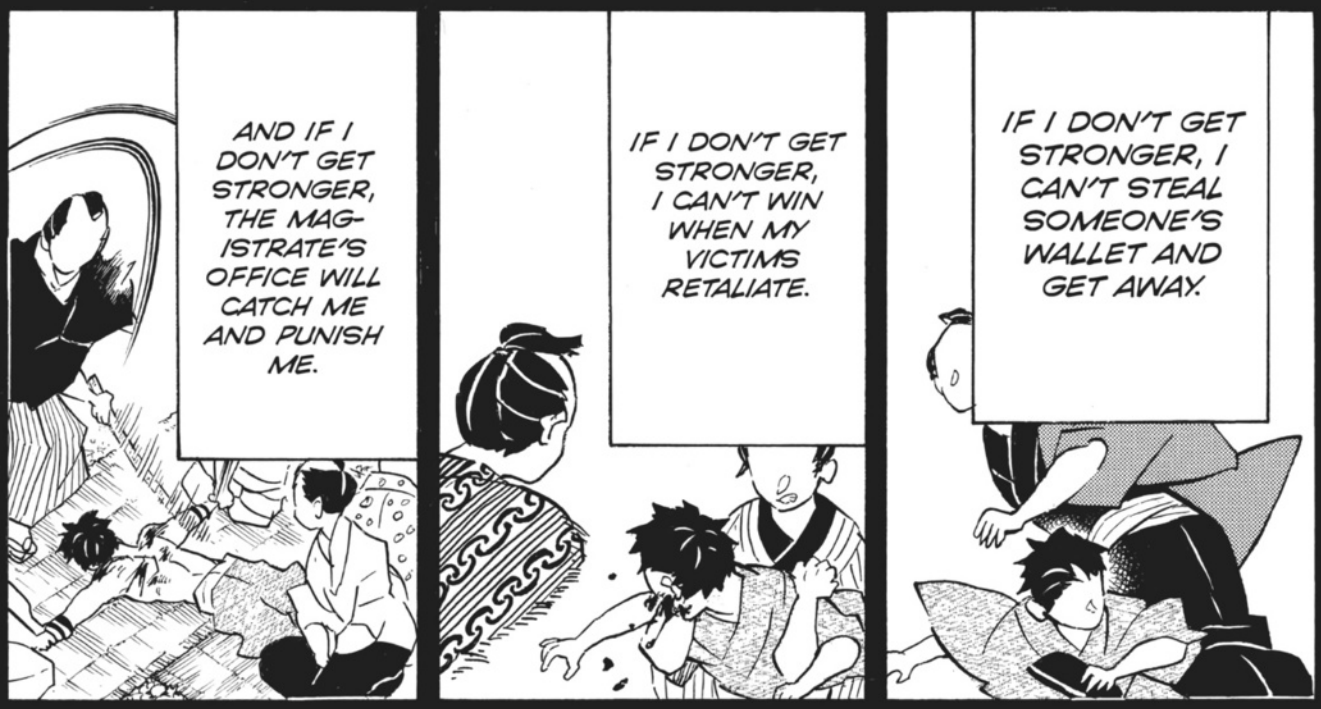
I WILL SAVE TANJIRO...
...THE SAME WAY I WAS SAVED.
I'LL SAVE HIM.


LET GO.

WHO ARE YOU?
LET GO OF MY HAND.

NO.
I HAVE TO KILL THEM.
WHY?
LET'S LEAVE THIS PLACE.
STOP THIS.
WHY DO YOU WANT TO BE STRONG?
BUT WHY?
I KILL ANYONE WHO GETS IN MY WAY.
I MUST BECOME STRONGER.
...IF I'M NOT STRONG, I CAN'T BRING IT BACK.
BECAUSE...

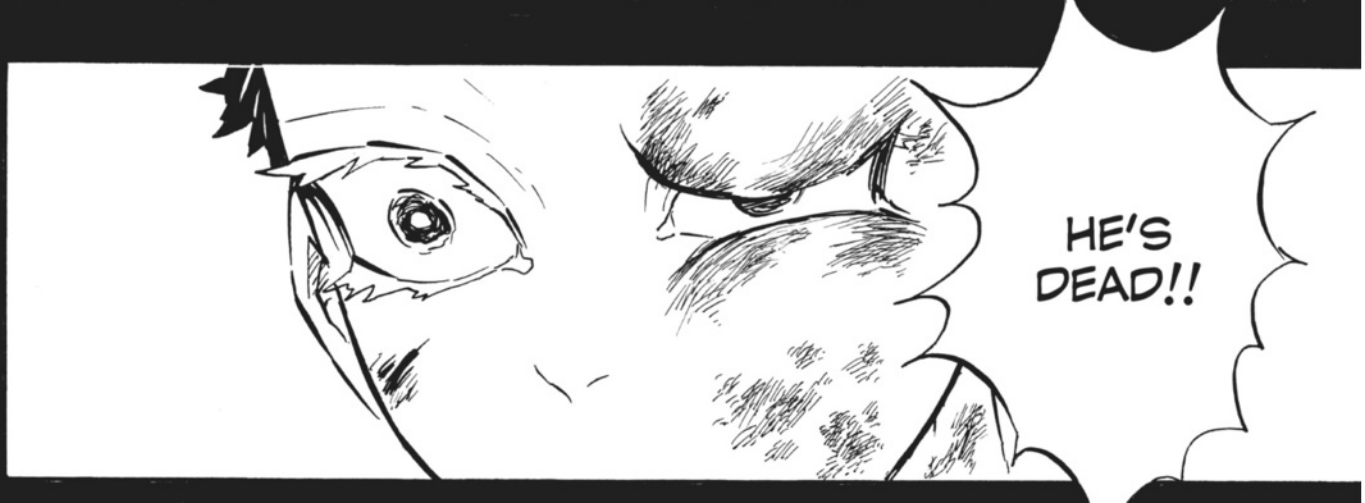
MEDICINE...
...FOR MY FATHER.


IF I DON'T GET STRONGER, I CAN'T STEAL SOMEONE'S WALLET AND GET AWAY.
IF I DON'T GET STRONGER, I CAN'T WIN WHEN MY VICTIMS RETALIATE.
AND IF I DON'T GET STRONGER, THE MAGISTRATE'S OFFICE WILL CATCH ME AND PUNISH ME.

YOU ALREADY HAVE THREE LINES TATTOOED ON BOTH ARMS FOR BEING A PICKPOCKET.
NEXT TIME, WE'LL CUT OFF A HAND.

HA HA HA!!
HA HA!
IF THAT'S WHAT YOU'RE GONNA DO, THEN DO IT!
IF YOU CUT OFF BOTH MY HANDS, I'VE GOT FEET!
I'LL PICK POCKETS WITH MY FEET! ANYWAY, NEXT TIME I WON'T GET CAUGHT!
YOU ARE A *DEMON CHILD.*
...AND YET YOU REMAIN DEFIANT DESPITE RECEIVING A HUNDRED LASHES—WHICH WOULD MAKE EVEN A GROWN MAN FAINT.
AT JUST 11 YEARS OF AGE, YOU'RE A REPEAT OFFENDER...

*SIGN: TOWN MAGISTRATE'S OFFICE



"DEAR HAKUJI...
"I AM SORRY FOR TROUBLING YOU."
I DIDN'T WANT TO LIVE ON IF IT MEANT STEALING FROM PEOPLE."
"LIVE A RIGHTEOUS LIFE. YOU CAN STILL CHANGE.
FATHER ...
ARE THE POOR NOT EVEN ALLOWED TO LIVE?
TO HELL WITH THIS WORLD!

TO HELL WITH EVERY LAST ONE OF THEM!
...BUT MY FATHER HAD TO DIE?
WHY DO THESE ROTTEN PEOPLE GET TO LIVE...
I COULD TAKE THE PUNISHMENT.
MY FATHER DIDN'T DO ANYTHING WRONG!
HE WASN'T A BOTHER.
WHAT DID HE HAVE TO APOLO-GIZE FOR?

REPENT !!
DO HONEST WORK!
I DON'T WANT TO HEAR IT, YOU BASTARD!
WE DON'T HAVE ENOUGH MONEY! MEDICINE IS EXPENSIVE!
THEY COULD WHIP ME SAVAGELY OR BREAK ALL MY BONES...
...BUT I COULD TAKE IT FOR EVEN A HUNDRED YEARS FOR MY FATHER'S SAKE!
I WANTED TO FEED HIM SOMETHING MORE NUTRITIOUS. I WAS SURE I COULD HEAL HIM.
HIS RIBS WERE BEGINNING TO SHOW THROUGH HIS BACK.
MY FATHER WAS RAPIDLY LOSING WEIGHT.
I WOULD HAVE BEEN HAPPY TO DIE INSTEAD, IF IT WERE FOR MY FATHER'S SAKE.
WHY DID HE HANG HIMSELF?

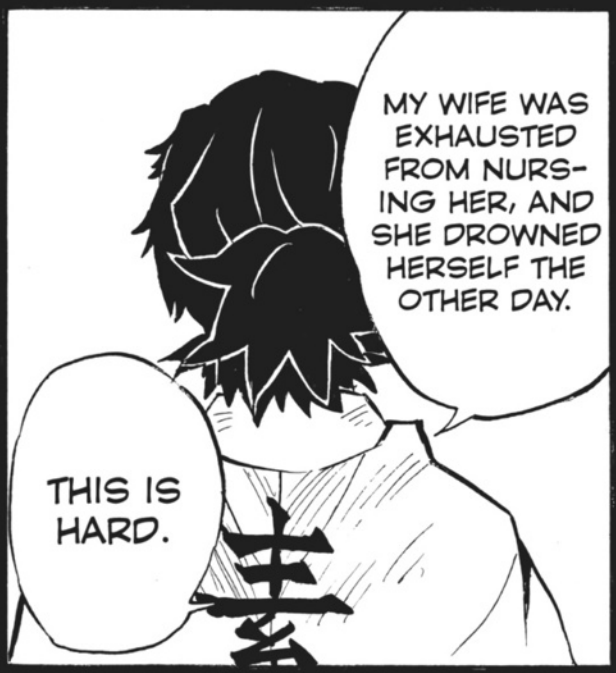
FOR MY FATHER!!
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
THUD
CLAP
CLAP
OH, WOW!
YOU'RE PRETTY GOOD!
...BUT YOU KNOCKED OUT SEVEN ADULTS WITH YOUR BARE HANDS.
THEY CALLED ME BECAUSE SOMEONE WAS ABOUT TO KILL A CHILD, SO I CAME TO SEE WHAT I COULD DO...

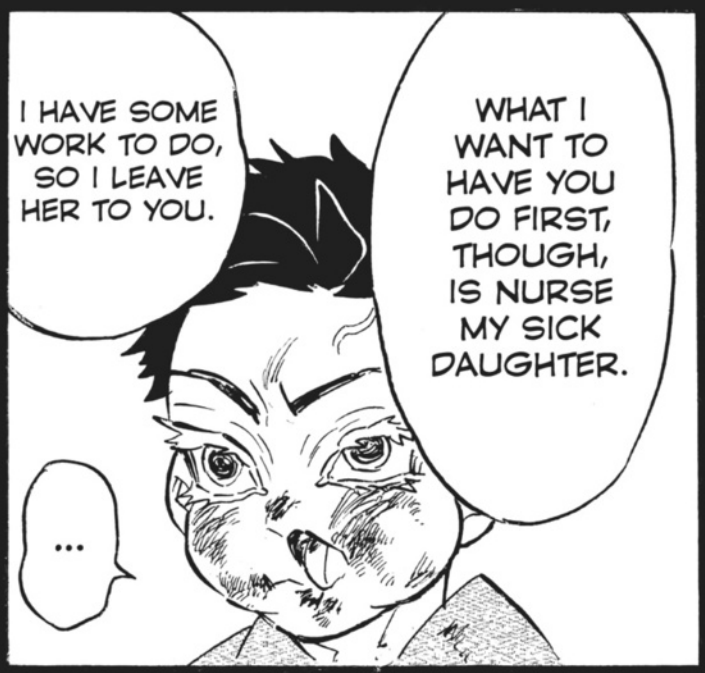
YOU'VE GOT PROMISE.
YOU BEAT ADULTS WITHOUT A WEAPON.
IMPRESSIVE!
WHO IS THIS GUY?
WHAT AM I SEEING?
MY MEMORIES?
GRIN
WANNA COME TO MY DOJO?
I DON'T HAVE ANY STUDENTS!
SHUT UP, OLD MAN!!
I'LL KILL YOU!!

...AND ENDED UP HERE?
THOSE TATTOOS MEAN YOU'RE A CRIMINAL FROM EDO.
SO WERE YOU BANISHED FROM EDO...
UH-HUH! WELL...
...TIME FOR YOU TO BE REBORN, BOY. SO COME ON!!
IT'S GOT NOTH-ING TO DO WITH YOU!!
SO WHAT IF I DID?!
DROP DEAD, OLD MAN!!

BAM
BAM
BAM
WHEW, YOU'RE TOUGH.
I GAVE YOU A BEATING, BUT YOU WOKE UP IN LESS THAN AN HOUR!

I'M KEIZO. I RUN A MARTIAL ARTS DOJO THAT TEACHES THE SORYU STYLE OF FIGHTING.
I DON'T HAVE A SINGLE STUDENT.
SO I MAKE MY LIVING DOING ODD JOBS.


MY WIFE WAS EXHAUSTED FROM NURSING HER, AND SHE DROWNED HERSELF THE OTHER DAY.
THIS IS HARD.


WHAT I WANT TO HAVE YOU DO FIRST, THOUGH, IS NURSE MY SICK DAUGHTER.
I HAVE SOME WORK TO DO, SO I LEAVE HER TO YOU.
...

YOU SURE YOU WANT TO BRING A CRIMINAL LIKE ME INTO YOUR HOME WITH YOUR DAUGHTER?

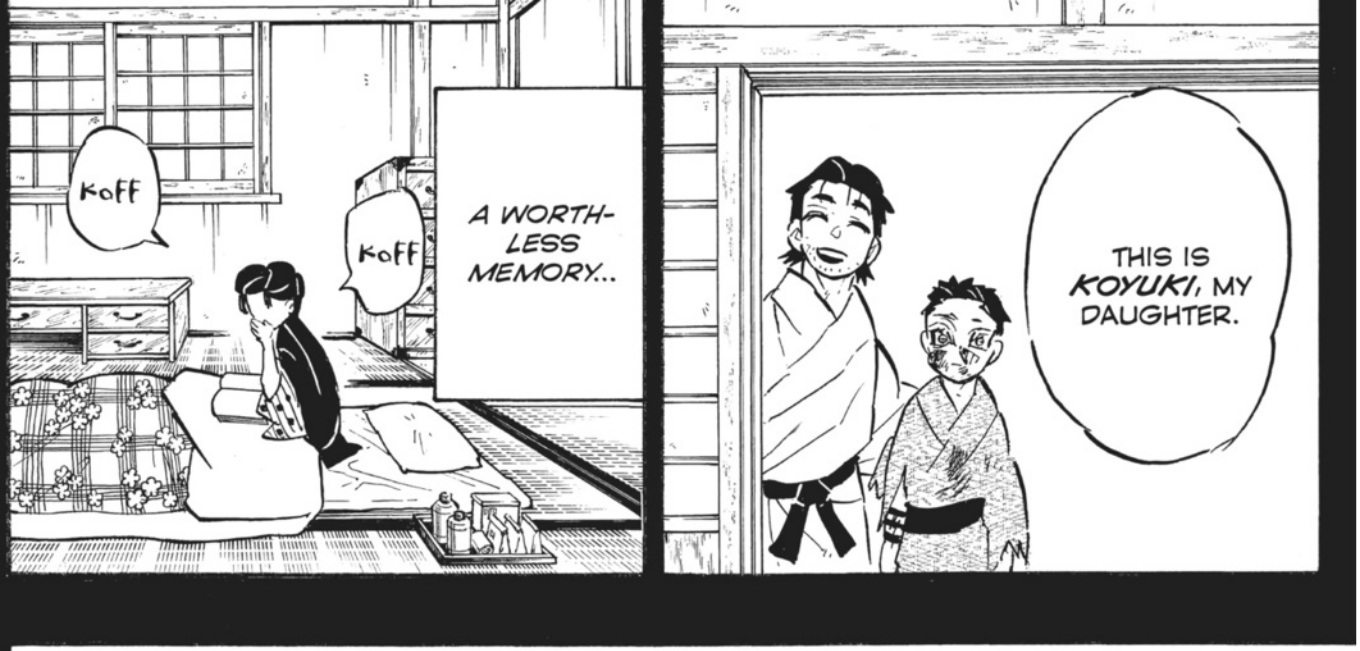
THE TRUTH IS, I'M WEAK WILLED. IT WAS A BURDEN ON HER—AND MY DAUGHTER.
TUMP
TUMP

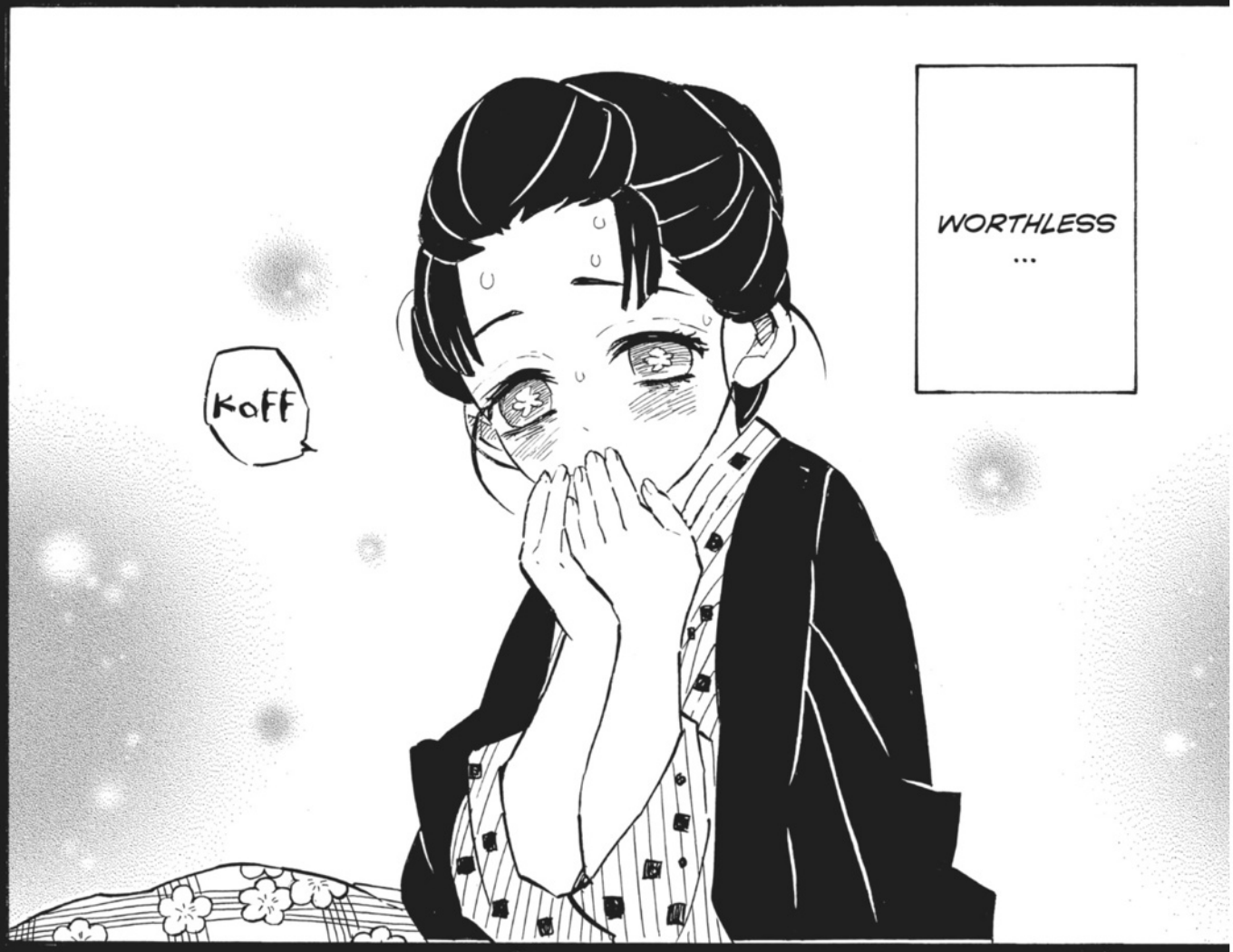
...
!!

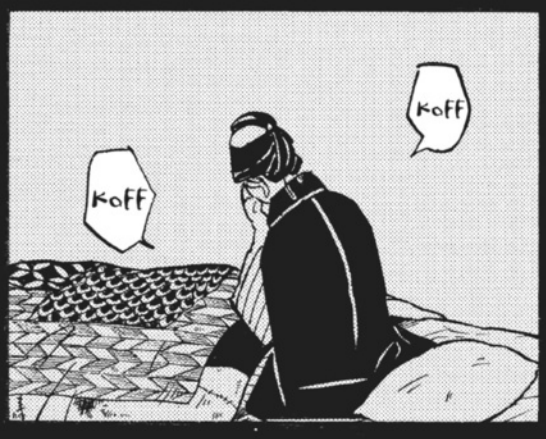
YES, BUT I BEAT UP AND DEFEATED THAT CRIMINAL EARLIER, SO IT'S ALL RIGHT NOW!

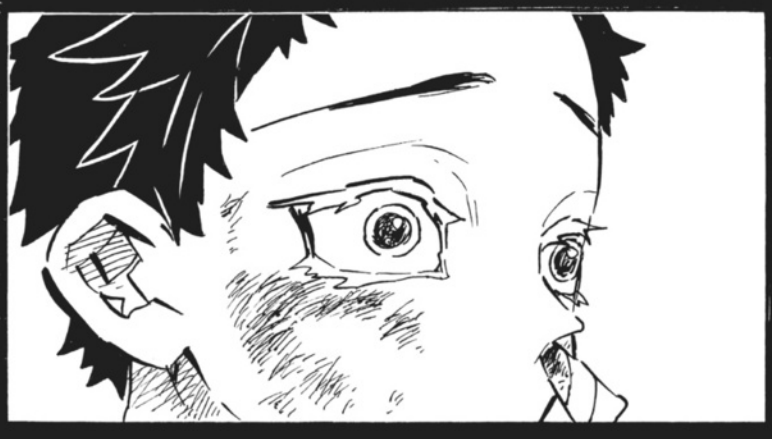
WE'RE ALIKE.
玄流

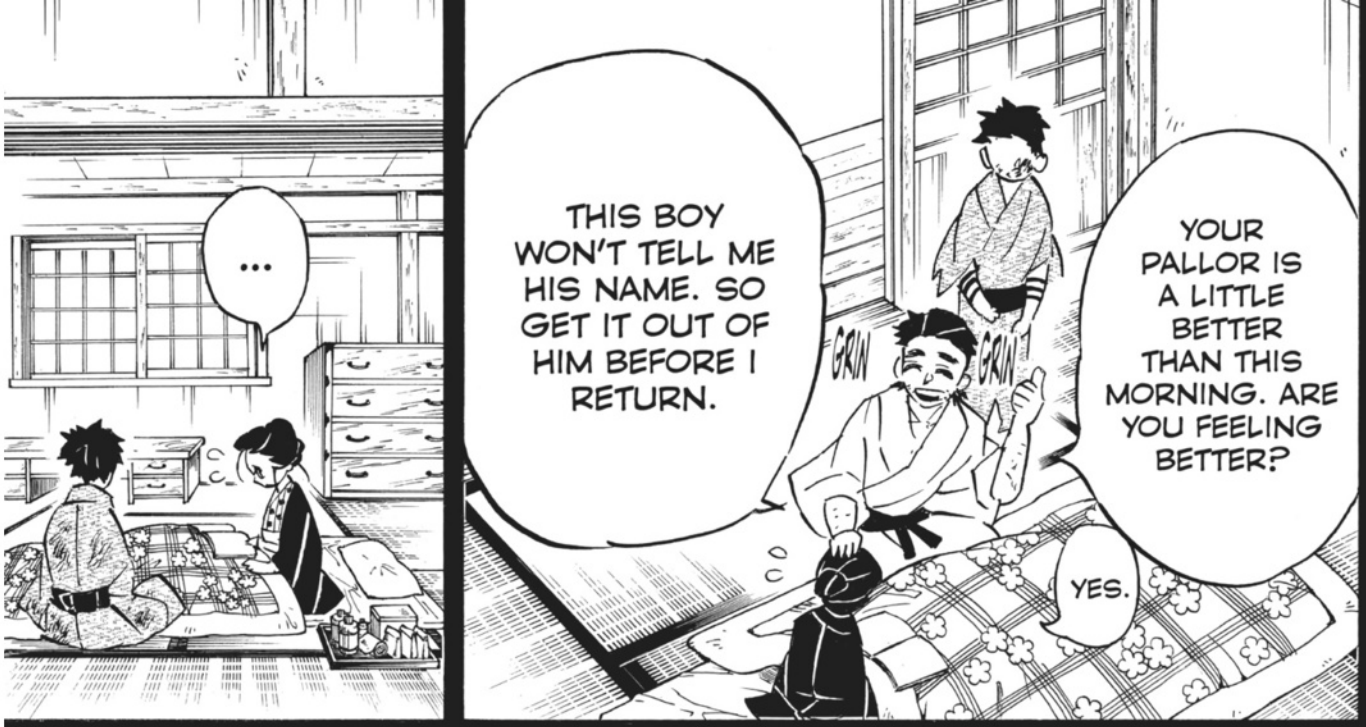
...THIS TIRESOME OLD STORY.
...IS BECAUSE YOU REMIND ME OF..
I GET IT. THE REASON I FIND YOU SO UNPLEASANT...

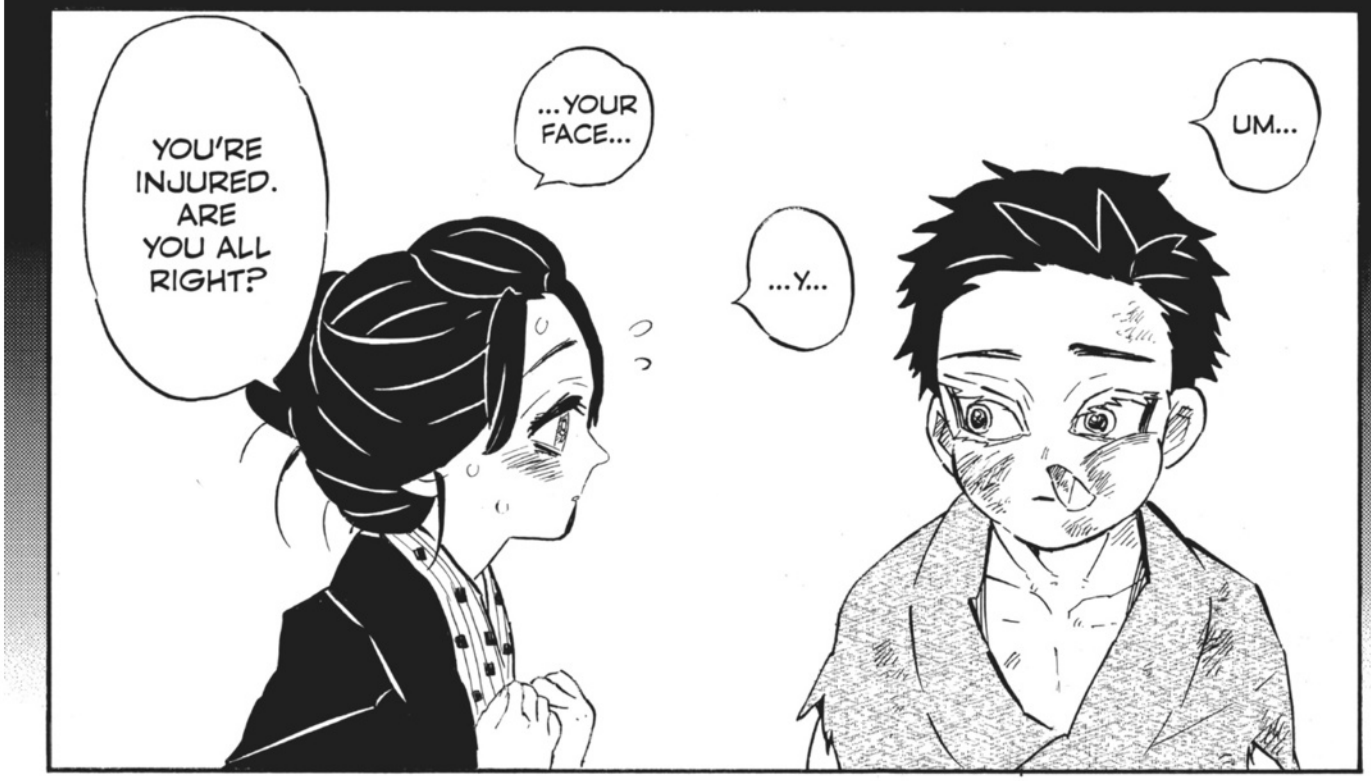

KOFF
KOFF
A WORTH-LESS MEMORY...
THIS IS KOYUKI, MY DAUGHTER.

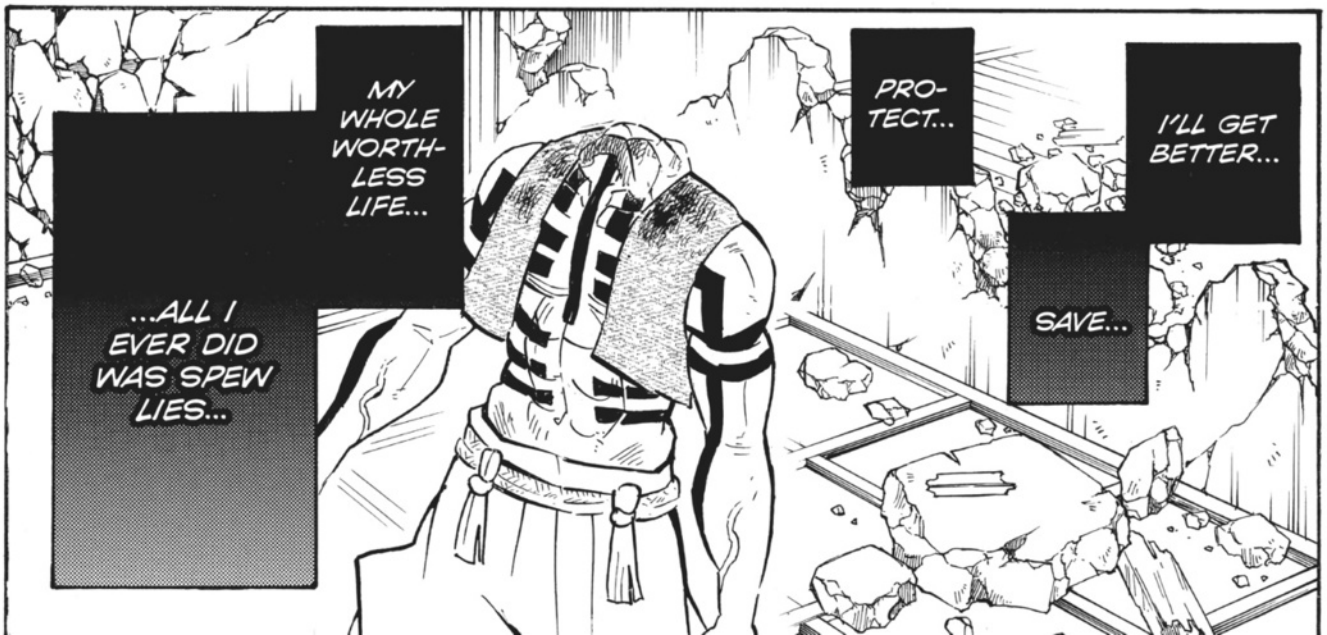

KOFF
WORTHLESS ...


KOFF
KOFF



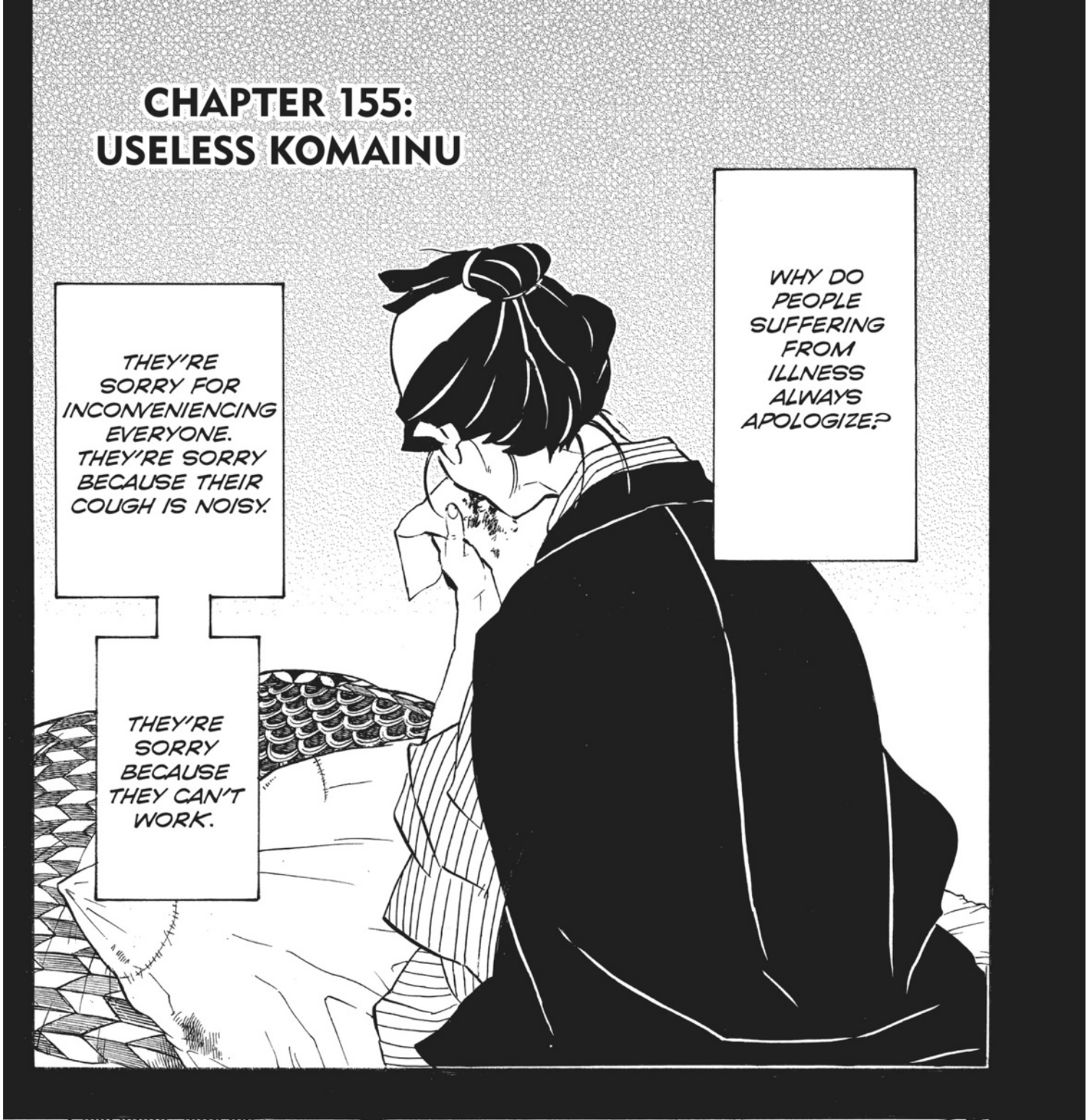

...
THIS BOY WON'T TELL ME HIS NAME. SO GET IT OUT OF HIM BEFORE I RETURN.
GRIN
GRIN
YOUR PALLOR IS A LITTLE BETTER THAN THIS MORNING. ARE YOU FEELING BETTER?
YES.


YOU'RE INJURED. ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
...YOUR FACE...
...Y...
UM...


MY WHOLE WORTH-LESS LIFE...
...ALL I EVER DID WAS SPEW LIES...
PRO-TECT...
I'LL GET BETTER...
SAVE...

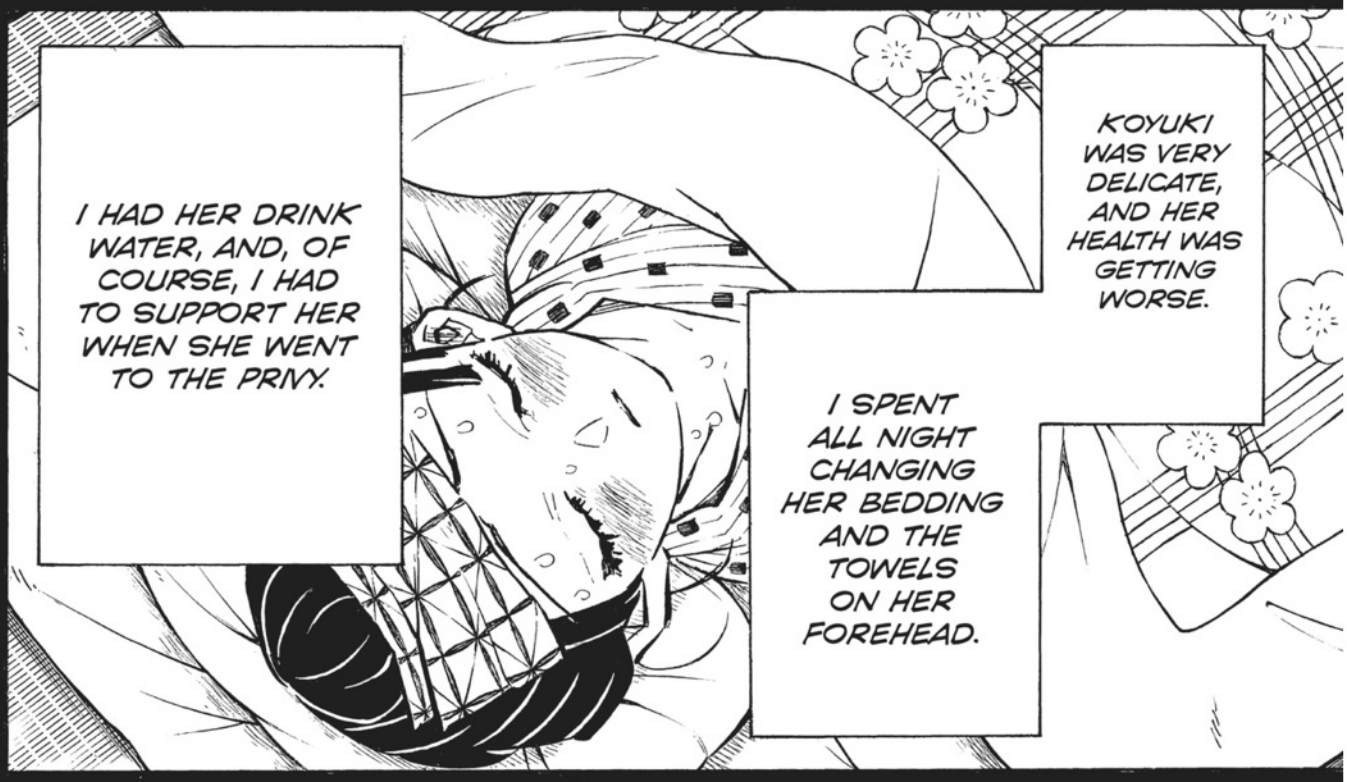
Your comrades have fallen, so at least pray for the dead. You're so cold.
Right now?! Anyway, they're not dead!! And whose fault was it?!
I'm really gonna slap you!!

CHAPTER 155: USELESS KOMAINU

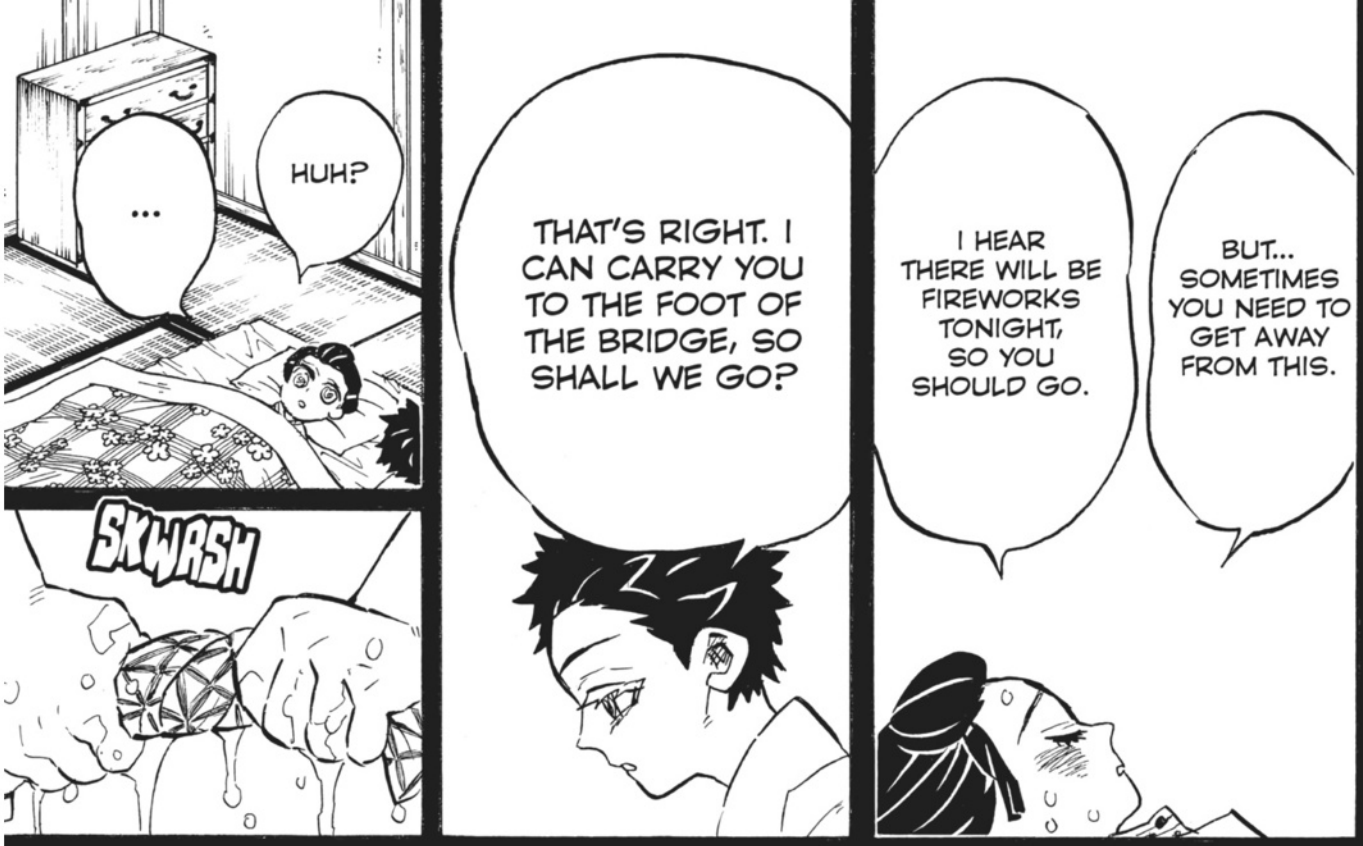

WHY DO PEOPLE SUFFERING FROM ILLNESS ALWAYS APOLOGIZE?
THEY'RE SORRY FOR INCONVENIENCING EVERYONE. THEY'RE SORRY BECAUSE THEIR COUGH IS NOISY.
THEY'RE SORRY BECAUSE THEY CAN'T WORK.

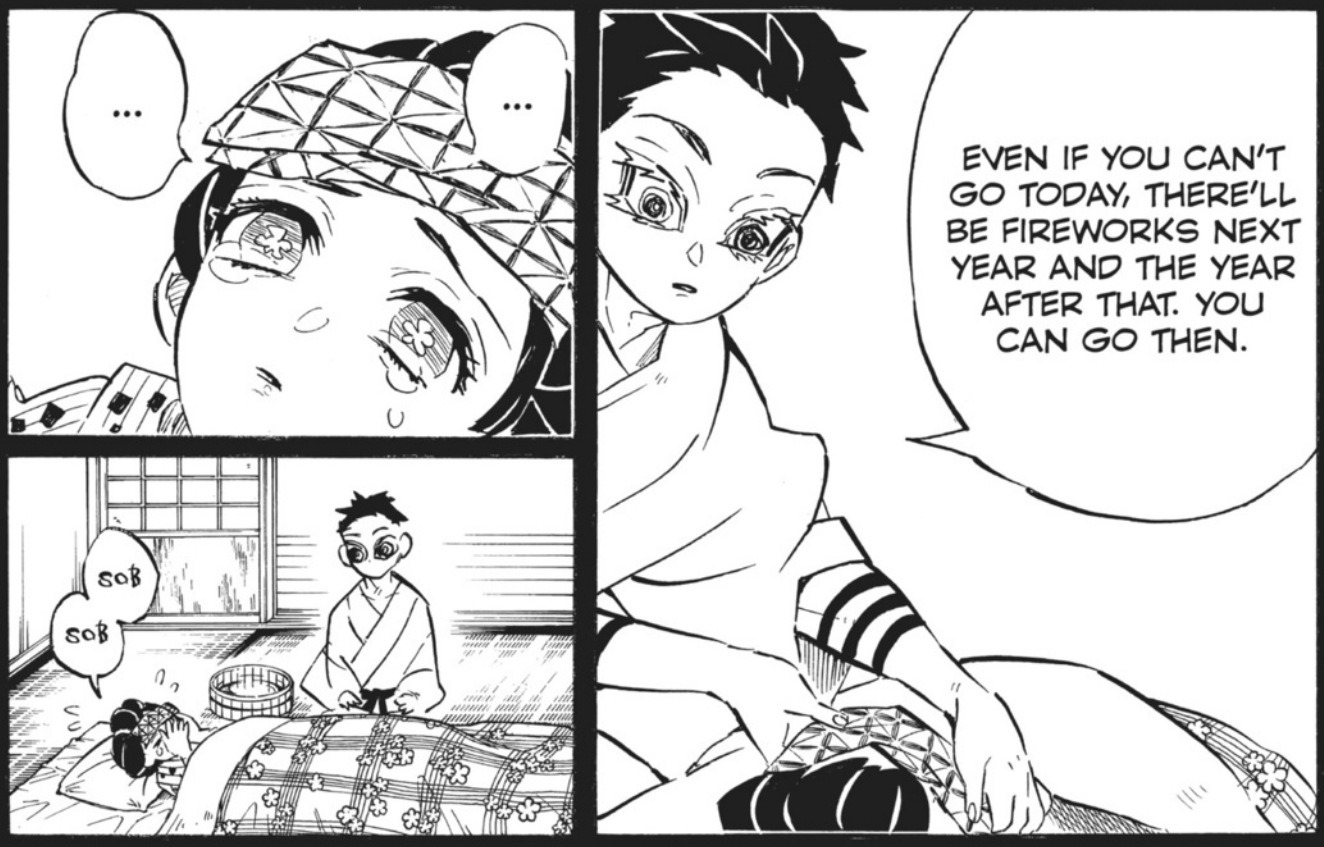
THEY'RE THE ONES SUFFERING THE MOST, BUT...
THEY MUST WANT TO DO THINGS BY THEM-SELVES.
THEY CAN'T STOP COUGHING AND MUST WANT TO BREATHE NORMALLY.

FORGIVE ME.
BECAUSE OF ME, YOU CAN'T TRAIN OR GO HAVE FUN.


KOYUKI WAS VERY DELICATE, AND HER HEALTH WAS GETTING WORSE.
I SPENT ALL NIGHT CHANGING HER BEDDING AND THE TOWELS ON HER FOREHEAD.
I HAD HER DRINK WATER, AND, OF COURSE, I HAD TO SUPPORT HER WHEN SHE WENT TO THE PRIVY.

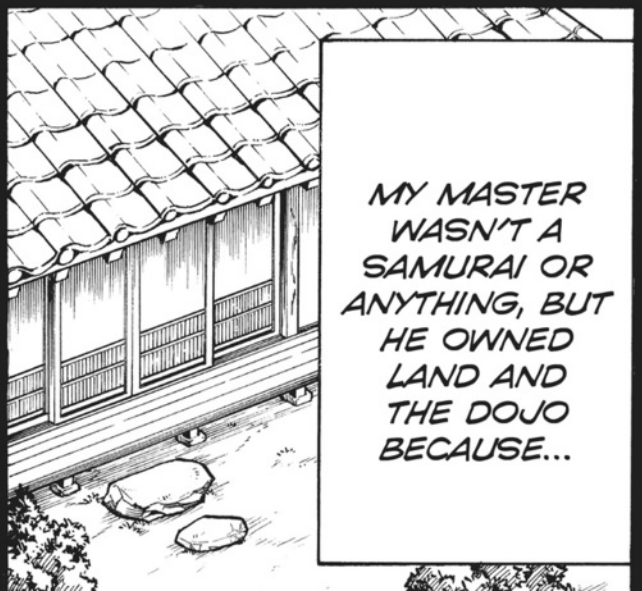
I HAD NURSED MY FATHER...
...AND I COULD ENDURE MORE THAN THE AVERAGE PERSON...
...SO IT WASN'T TERRIBLY HARD.
I NEVER THINK ABOUT HAVING FUN.
IN MY FREE TIME, I TRAIN AROUND HERE, SO PAY NO MIND.
SLOSH
SLOSH

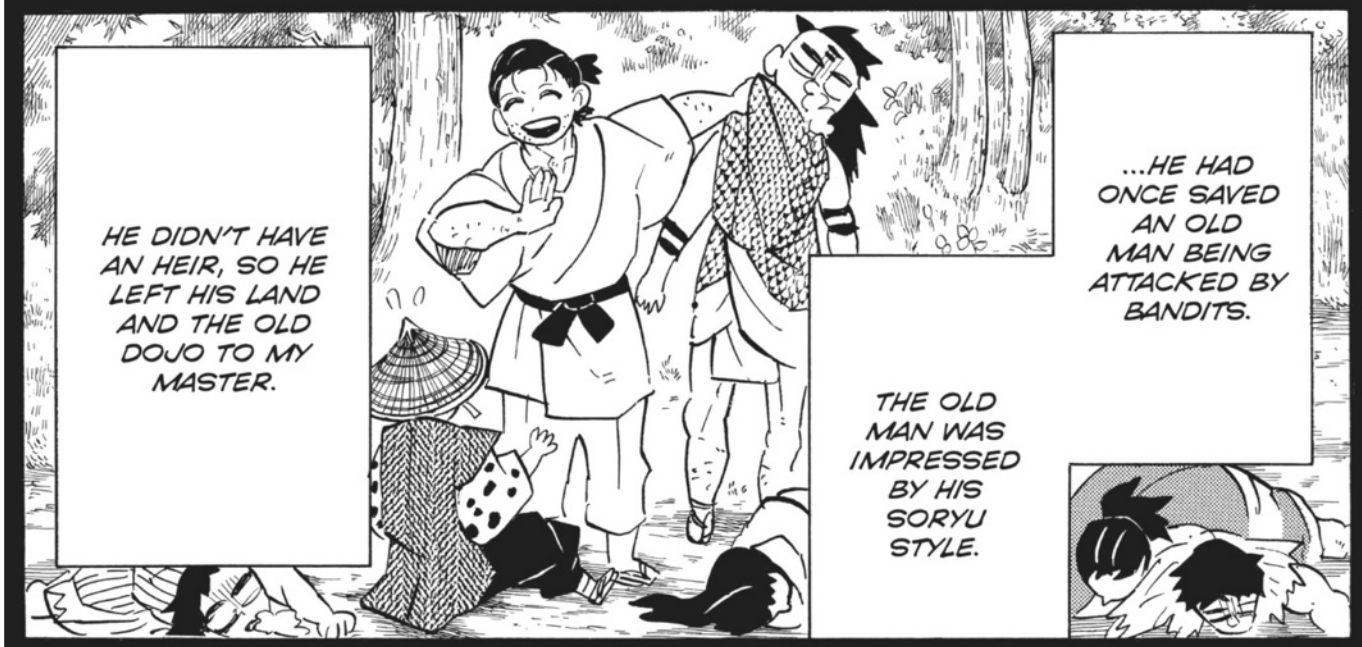

...
HUH?
SKWASH
THAT'S RIGHT. I CAN CARRY YOU TO THE FOOT OF THE BRIDGE, SO SHALL WE GO?
I HEAR THERE WILL BE FIREWORKS TONIGHT, SO YOU SHOULD GO.
BUT... SOMETIMES YOU NEED TO GET AWAY FROM THIS.


...
...
SOB
SOB
EVEN IF YOU CAN'T GO TODAY, THERE'LL BE FIREWORKS NEXT YEAR AND THE YEAR AFTER THAT. YOU CAN GO THEN.

I SUPPOSE BEING SICK IN BED WAS DEPRESSING, BUT WHEN SHE CRIED, I FELT REALLY BAD.
...WAS WHEN KOYUKI WOULD WEEP PITIFULLY WHILE WE WERE TALKING.
THE ONLY THING I DIDN'T LIKE ABOUT NURSING HER...

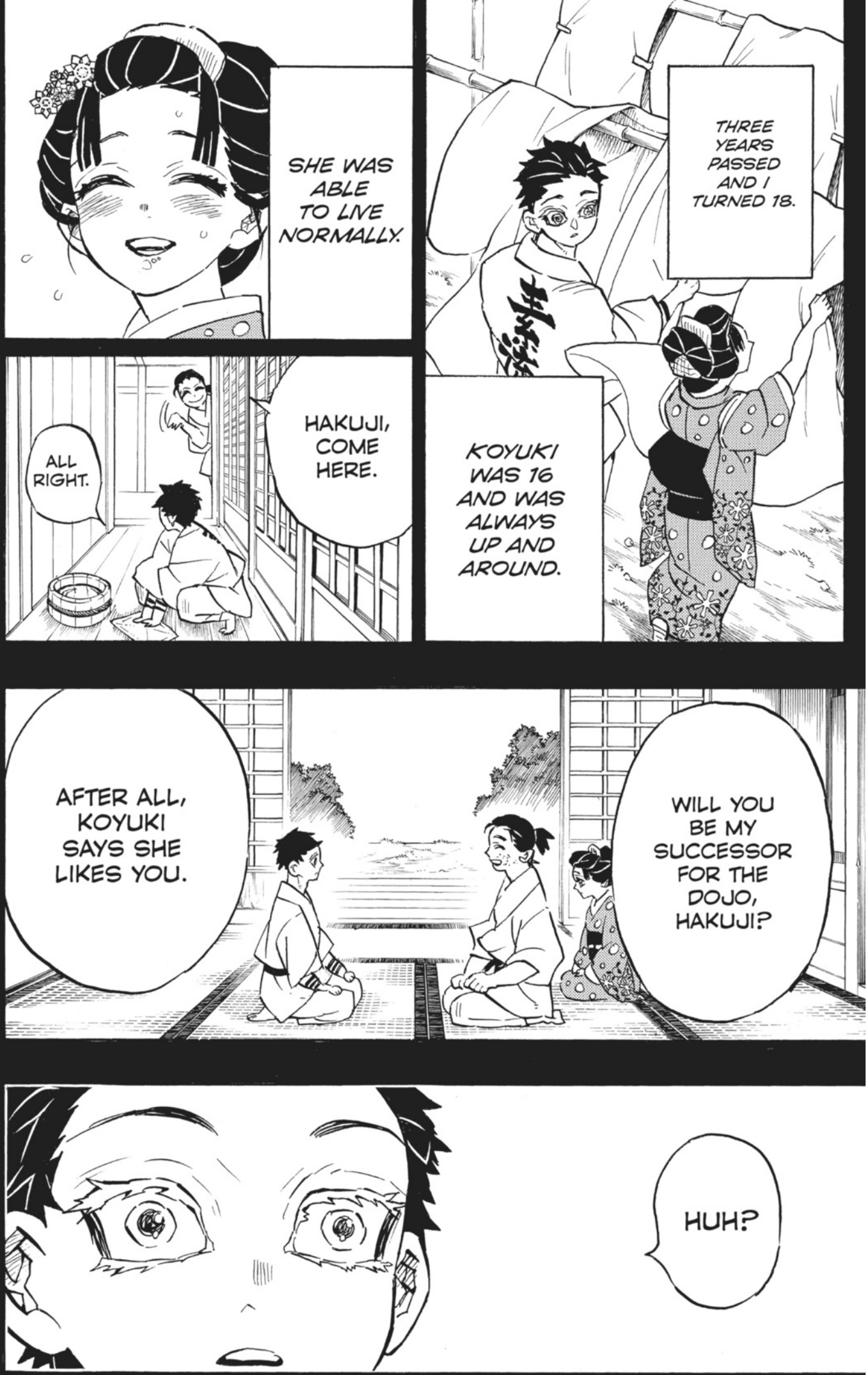
*GUARDIAN STATUES AT JAPANESE SHRINES.

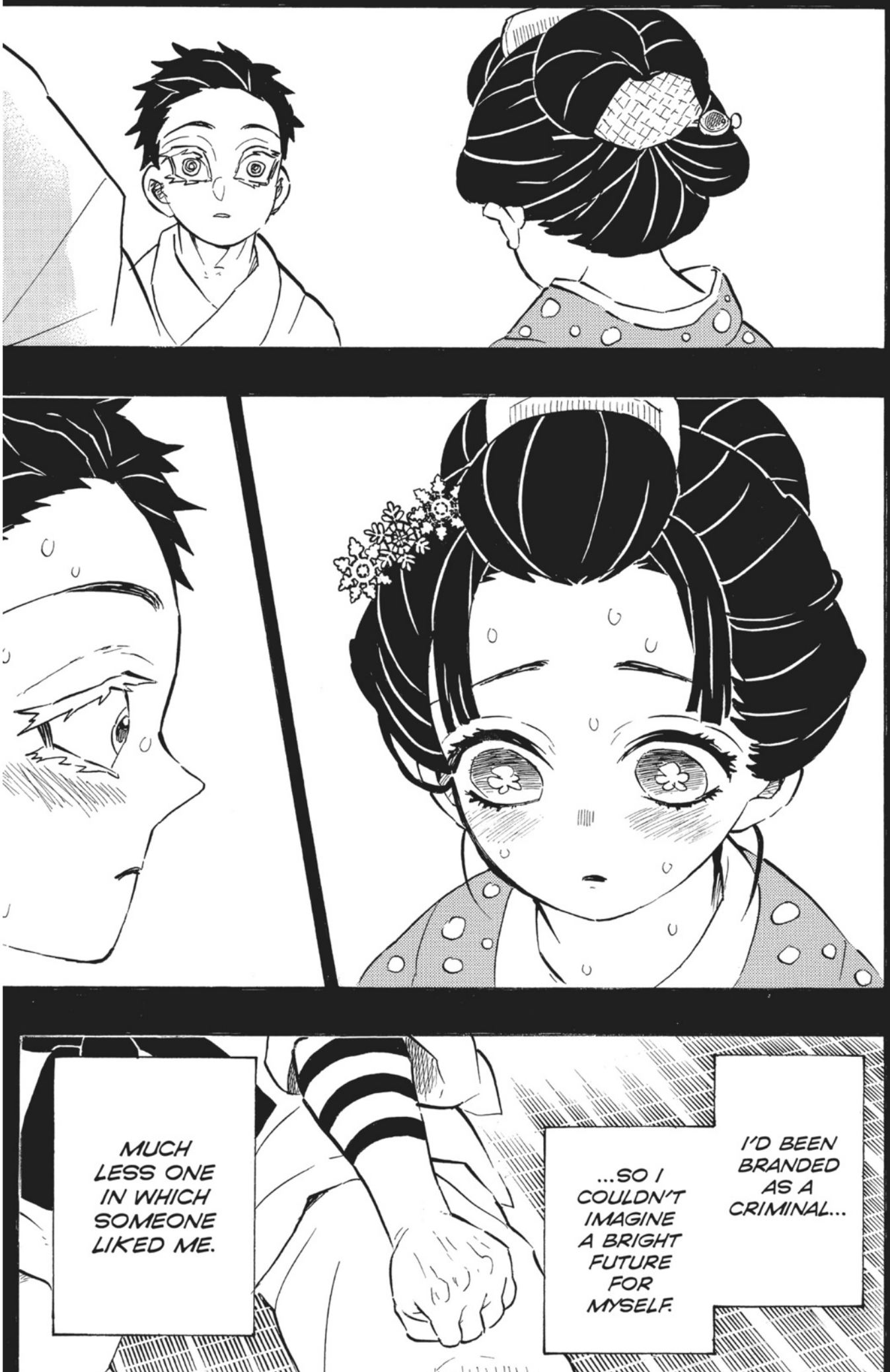



HE DIDN'T HAVE AN HEIR, SO HE LEFT HIS LAND AND THE OLD DOJO TO MY MASTER.
...HE HAD ONCE SAVED AN OLD MAN BEING ATTACKED BY BANDITS.
THE OLD MAN WAS IMPRESSED BY HIS SORYU STYLE.

A NEIGHBORING DOJO BEGAN HARASSING THE SORYU DOJO.
素流道場
THERE WERE OTHERS WHO WANTED THE LAND FOR THEMSELVES. THEY WEREN'T PLEASED.

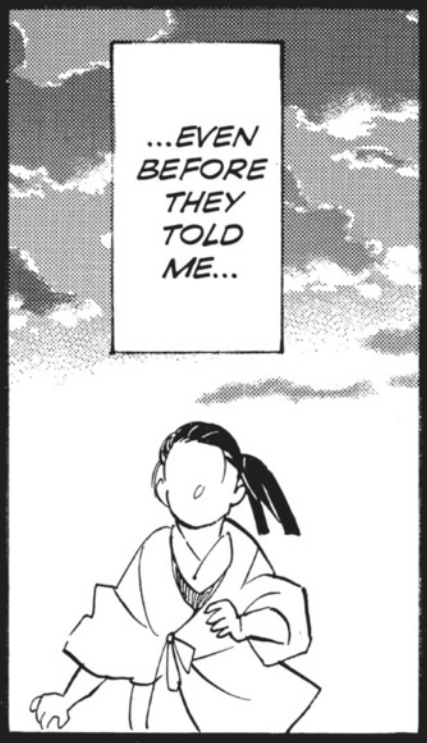
BUT LESSONS AND NURSING KOYUKI HERE...
...SAVED ME.
BECAUSE OF THAT, MY MASTER HAD TROUBLE FINDING STUDENTS.


THREE YEARS PASSED AND I TURNED 18.
KOYUKI WAS 16 AND WAS ALWAYS UP AND AROUND.
SHE WAS ABLE TO LIVE NORMALLY.
HAKUJI, COME HERE.
ALL RIGHT.
AFTER ALL, KOYUKI SAYS SHE LIKES YOU.
WILL YOU BE MY SUCCESSOR FOR THE DOJO, HAKUJI?
HUH?


I'D BEEN BRANDED AS A CRIMINAL...
...SO I COULDN'T IMAGINE A BRIGHT FUTURE FOR MYSELF.
MUCH LESS ONE IN WHICH SOMEONE LIKED ME.

...LIKE MY FATHER SAID?
WOULD I BE ABLE TO LIVE A RIGHTEOUS LIFE...
THE FAINT HOPE THAT I MIGHT BE ABLE TO START ANEW GREW BEYOND MY CONTROL.
AT THAT MOMENT...
...I WOULD HAVE GIVEN MY LIFE TO PROTECT THOSE TWO...
I NEVER IMAGINED THEY WOULD BE POISONED TO DEATH.

I WENT TO VISIT MY FATHER'S GRAVE...
...TO TELL HIM THERE WOULD BE A WEDDING.


...EVEN BEFORE THEY TOLD ME...

素流道場

I RETURNED TO THE DOJO BEFORE NIGHTFALL, BUT...

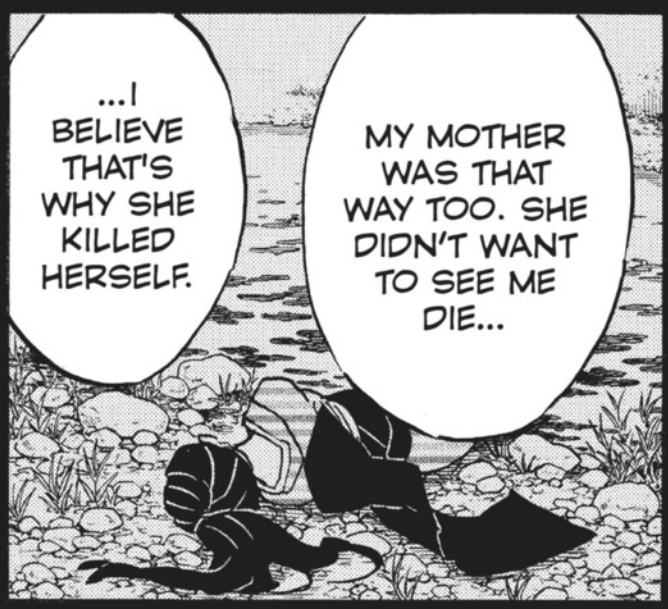
...AND MY SKIN WAS CRAWLING WITH A BAD PRE-MONITION.
...I FELT NAUSEOUS. MY STOMACH WAS CHURNING...

THEY DID IT BECAUSE THEY COULDN'T BEAT KEIZO OR YOU FACE-TO-FACE!
SOMEONE PUT POISON IN THE WELL!!
THEY DID SOME-THING HORRIBLE!
THEY EVEN KILLED KOYUKI!!
IT'S AWFUL!!
...AND I WASN'T BY THEIR SIDE.
ONCE AGAIN, A CRISIS HAD VISITED THE PEOPLE MOST IMPORTANT TO ME...

AM I REALLY GOOD ENOUGH?
POOM
EVEN THOUGH...
...I'D PROMISED I WOULD BE.
POOM
DO YOU REMEMBER?
POOM
POOM
...WE TALKED ABOUT GOING TO SEE FIRE-WORKS.
WHEN I WAS A CHILD...
UM...
HUH?
WELL...
EVEN IF I COULDN'T SEE THE FIREWORKS THAT YEAR...
...YOU SAID I COULD GO THE NEXT YEAR OR THE YEAR AFTER THAT.
...MADE ME HAPPY.
THOSE SILLY TALKS WITH YOU, HAKUJI...

BOOM
I...
...COULDN'T IMAGINE LIVING ANOTHER YEAR...
BOOM
...OR ANOTHER AFTER THAT.

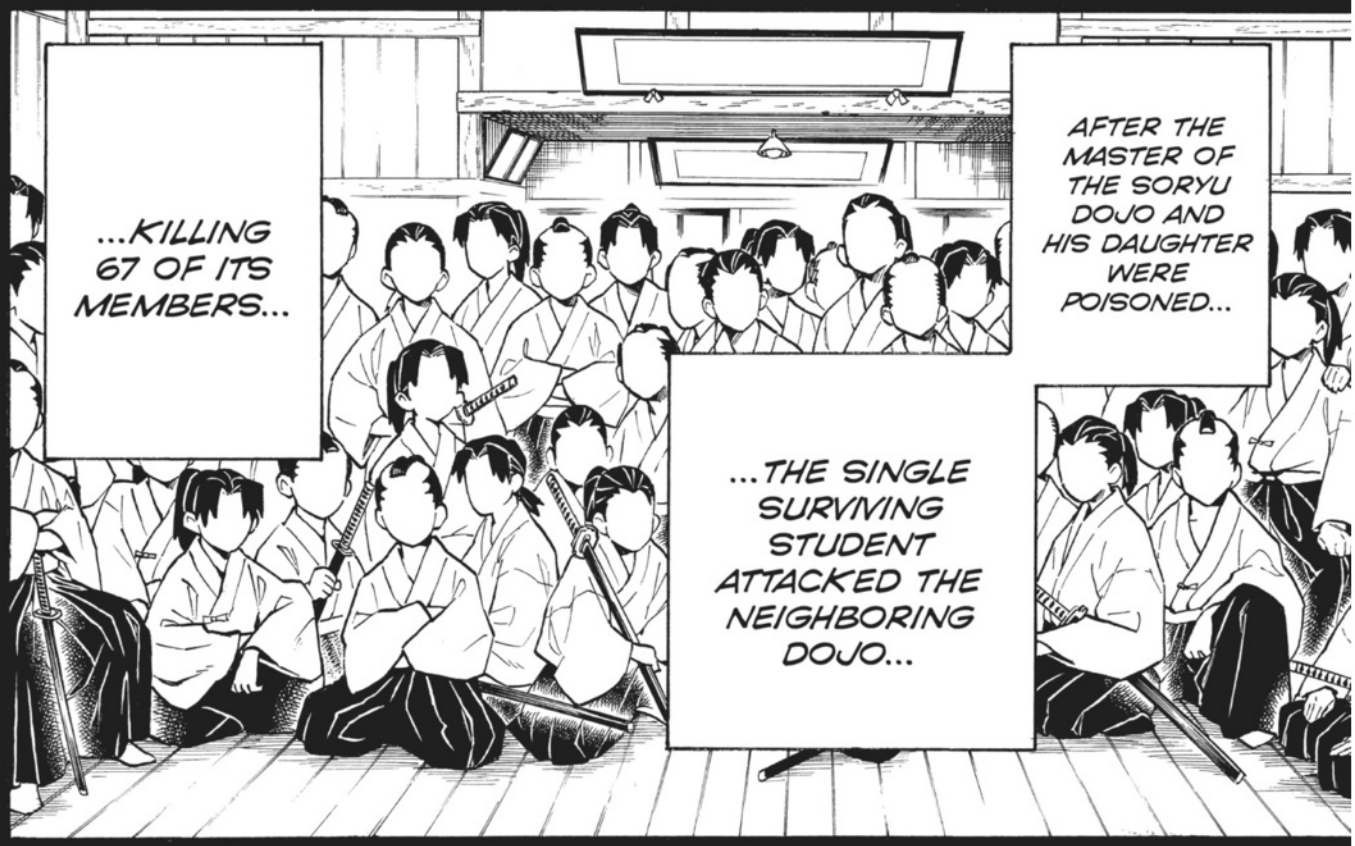
I WAS SO TERRIBLY WEAK.
AND I KNEW THAT MY FATHER HAD GIVEN UP.


...I BELIEVE THAT'S WHY SHE KILLED HERSELF.
MY MOTHER WAS THAT WAY TOO. SHE DIDN'T WANT TO SEE ME DIE...

YOU TALKED TO ME ABOUT THE NEXT YEAR AND THE YEAR AFTER THAT. I WAS VERY HAPPY.
...AS IF IT WERE JUST A MATTER OF FACT.
BUT YOU COULD SEE MY FUTURE...

CLASP
WILL YOU MARRY ME?
YES, YOU ARE GOOD ENOUGH.
YES.
I WILL BECOME STRONGER THAN ANYONE...
...AND PROTECT YOU FOR LIFE.
IN THE END...
POW
POW
...I WAS ALL TALK. I COULDN'T DO ANYTHING.

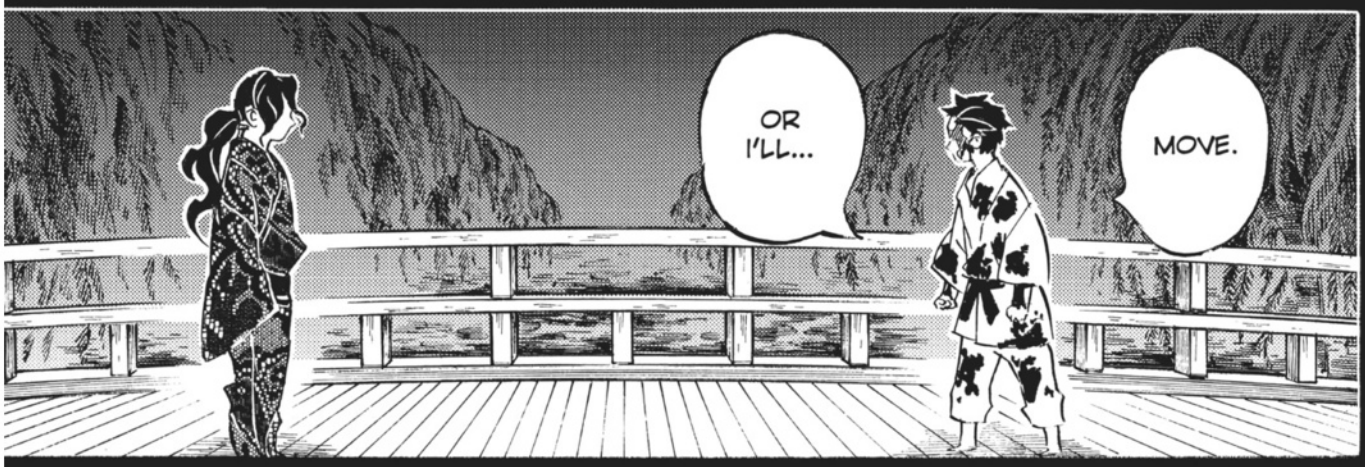
RECORDS AT THE MAGISTRATE'S OFFICE DETAILED THAT ATROCIOUS MURDER.


...KILLING 67 OF ITS MEMBERS...
AFTER THE MASTER OF THE SORYU DOJO AND HIS DAUGHTER WERE POISONED...
...THE SINGLE SURVIVING STUDENT ATTACKED THE NEIGHBORING DOJO...

...WITH HIS BARE HANDS.

ORGANS CRUSHED ...
HEADS SMASHED ...
IT WAS A HELLISH SCENE, WITH JAWS, BRAINS, EYEBALLS, HANDS AND FEET AND INNARDS SCATTERED AROUND, STUCK TO THE CEILING AND WALLS.
...AND WERE MISSING ENTIRE BODY PARTS.
MOST OF THE BODIES WERE MANGLED BEYOND RECOGNITION...
THE ACCOUNT WAS SO UNBELIEVABLE ...
...THAT AFTER 30 YEARS THE RECORDS WERE DISPOSED OF AS A FABRICATION.
THE SURVIVING MAID LOST HER MIND.

WHEEZ
WHEEZ
DRIP
DRIP
I HEARD THERE WAS A FUSS ABOUT A DEMON...
...BUT I DON'T REMEMBER PLACING ONE AROUND HERE, SO I WENT TO ALL THE TROUBLE OF COMING TO SEE.
BUT YOU'RE JUST A HUMAN.
HOW BORING.


MOVE.
OR I'LL...

...KILL YOU.

BASH
I'M THINKING ABOUT MAKING 12 POWERFUL DEMONS.
CAN YOU WITHSTAND THE AMOUNT OF BLOOD I'M GIVING YOU?
DON'T...
... CARE ...
...ANY-MORE.
I DON'T CARE...
...ABOUT...
...ANY-THING.

I DIDN'T EVEN WANT TO CONTINUE LIVING IN A WORLD WITHOUT MY FAMILY.
THERE WAS NOTHING LEFT THAT I WANTED TO PROTECT.
I BECAME A DEMON, LOST MY MEMORIES AND AGAIN BEGAN SEEKING STRENGTH.
FOR OVER A HUNDRED YEARS I COMMITTED POINTLESS ACTS OF CARNAGE.
IT'S A HORRIBLY SAD...
...LAUGH-ABLE...
...AND RIDICU-LOUS STORY.

Extra Tidbits

Memories are the foundation for all of Akaza's techniques.

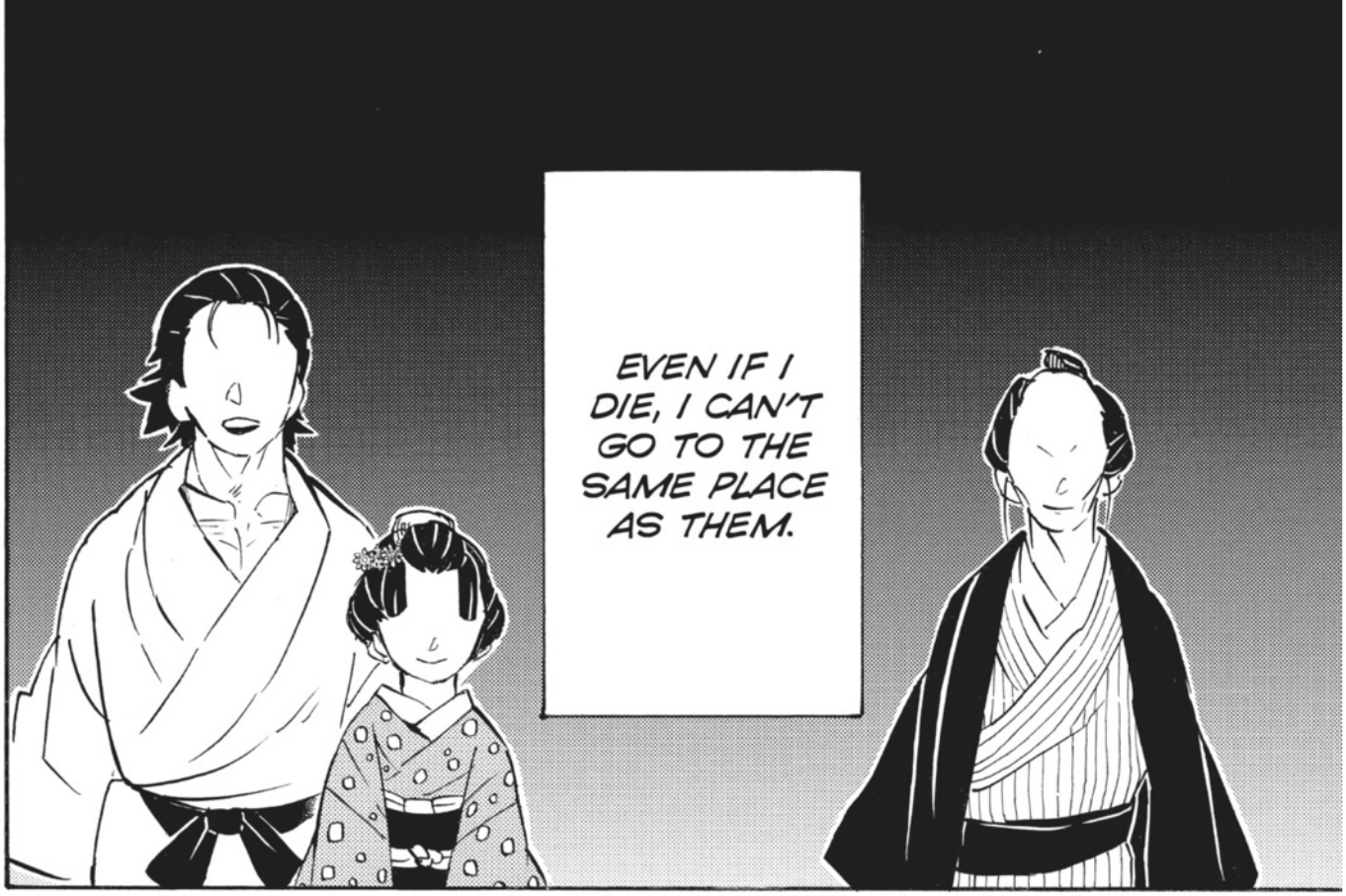
Technique names → Come from fireworks

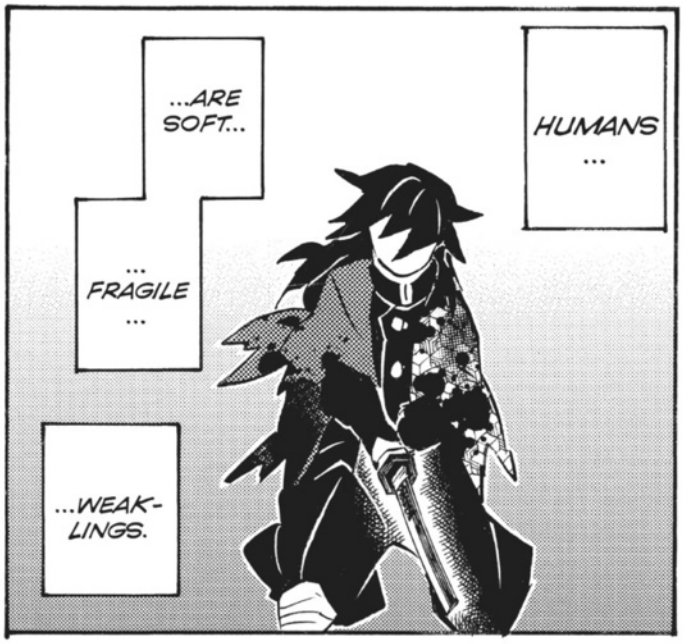
Technique Development pattern → Koyuki's hairpins stance

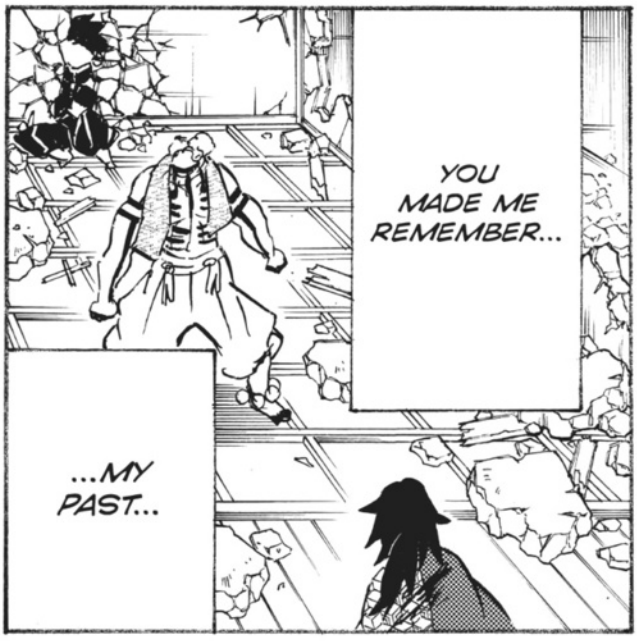
Martial arts school → Soryu

His father told him to live a righteous life, but he became a demon and committed many sins. Perhaps that's why criminal tattoos have mixed in with demon patterns and appear to be spreading all over his body.

CHAPTER 156: THANK YOU

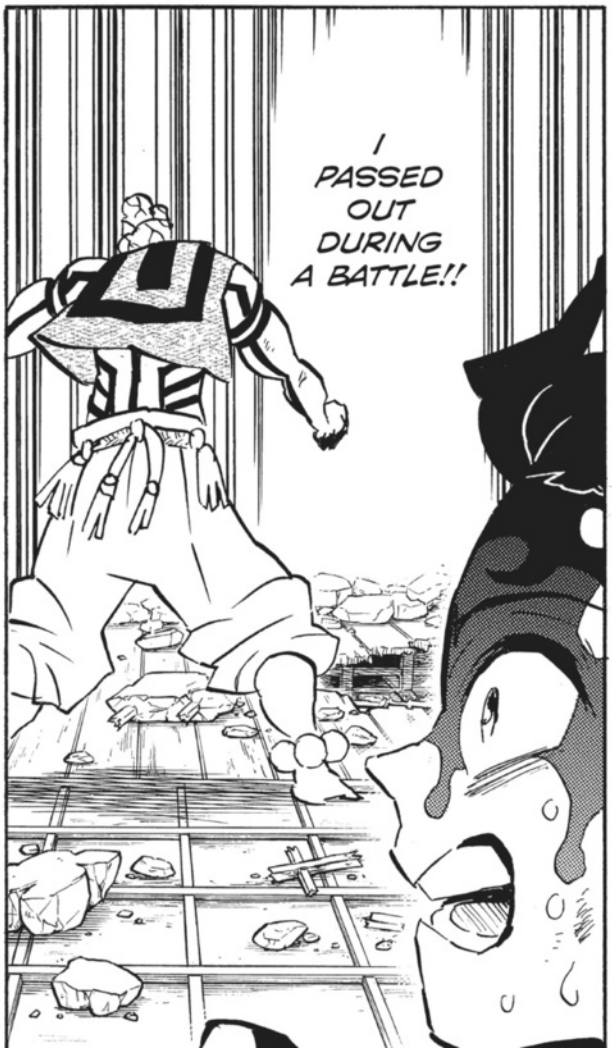

EVEN IF I DIE, I CAN'T GO TO THE SAME PLACE AS THEM.


HUMANS ...
...ARE SOFT...
... FRAGILE ...
...WEAK-LINGS.


YOU MADE ME REMEMBER...
...MY PAST...

THEY BREAK...
...AND DISAPPEAR.
THEY DIE EASILY.

FWSH
FWSH
FWSH
FWSH


I PASSED OUT DURING A BATTLE!!

GAAAH! EVEN THOUGH I CUT IT OFF!!
HIS HEAD!! HIS HEAD HAS STARTED TO REGEN-ERATE!!

DESTRUCTIVE DEATH
ANNIHI-LATION TYPE!

HE'S STILL MOVING ?!
STOP!!

NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES I HAVE TO CUT OFF HIS HEAD...
...GIYU AND I ARE GOING TO WIN...
...AGAINST AKAZA!!
SLIP
I DROPPED MY SWORD!!
MY GRIP... I LOST THE STRENGTH IN MY HAND!!
GAAAH!!
PLOP

WH
OK

TIME FOR YOU TO BE REBORN!
WEAK PEOPLE...
I HATE WEAK PEOPLE.
THE WEAK...
THEY'RE UGLY.
THEY PUT POISON IN THE WELL.
...DON'T CONFRONT YOU HEAD-ON.

I KILLED PEOPLE WITH FISTS MEANT TO PROTECT.
...LACK FORBEAR-ANCE.
THEY SOON GIVE IN TO DESPERATION.

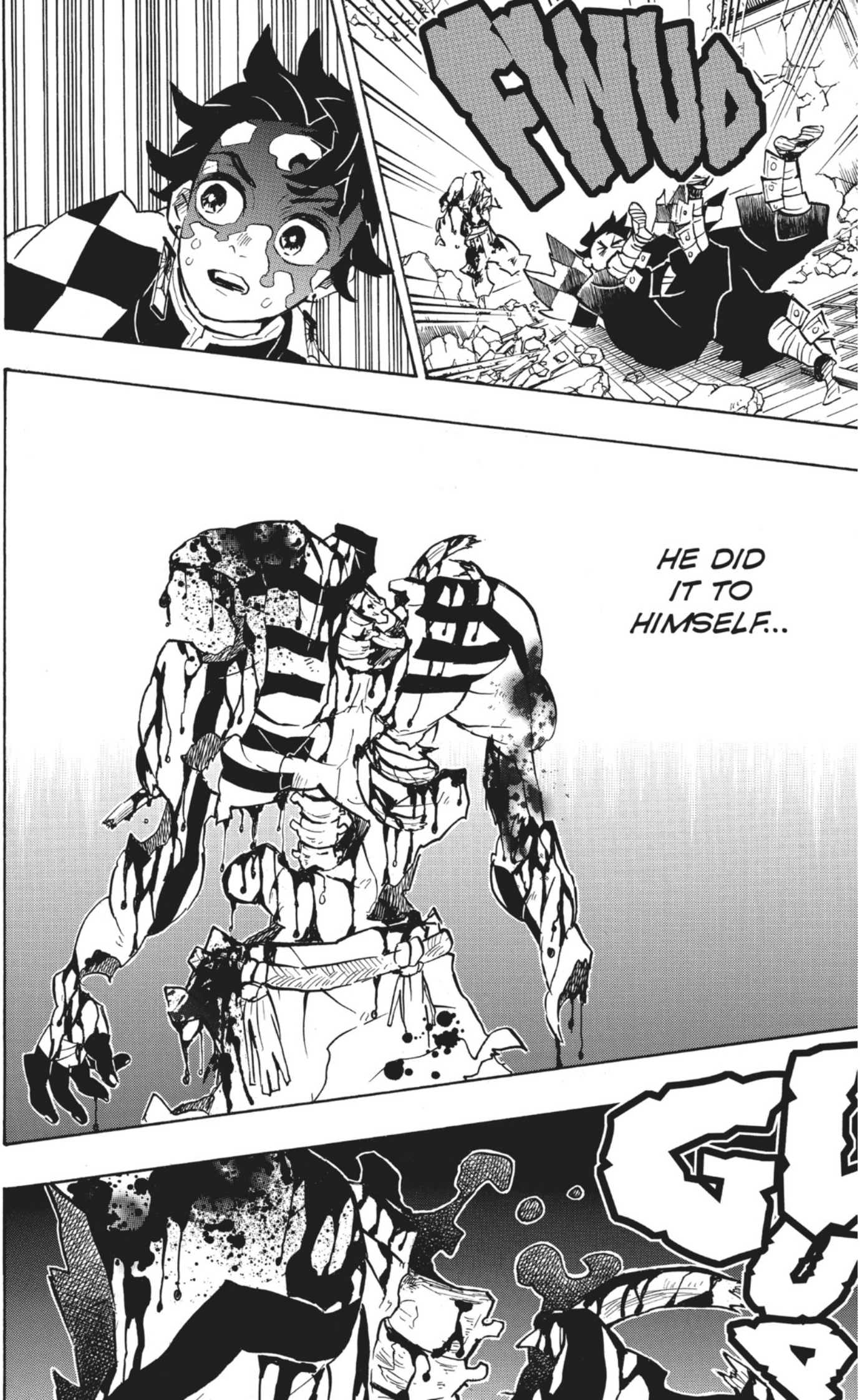
...AND I COULDN'T FULFILL MY FATHER'S LAST WISHES.

I GOT BLOOD ALL OVER MY MASTER'S BELOVED SORYU STYLE...

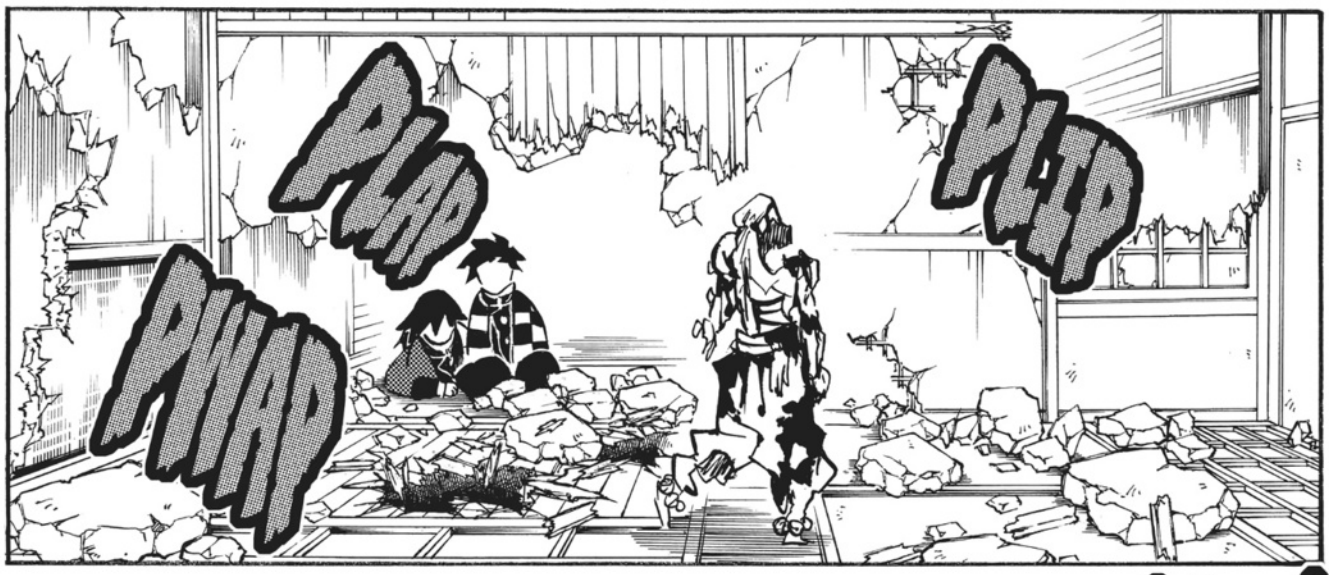
YES... THE ONE I WANTED TO KILL WAS...

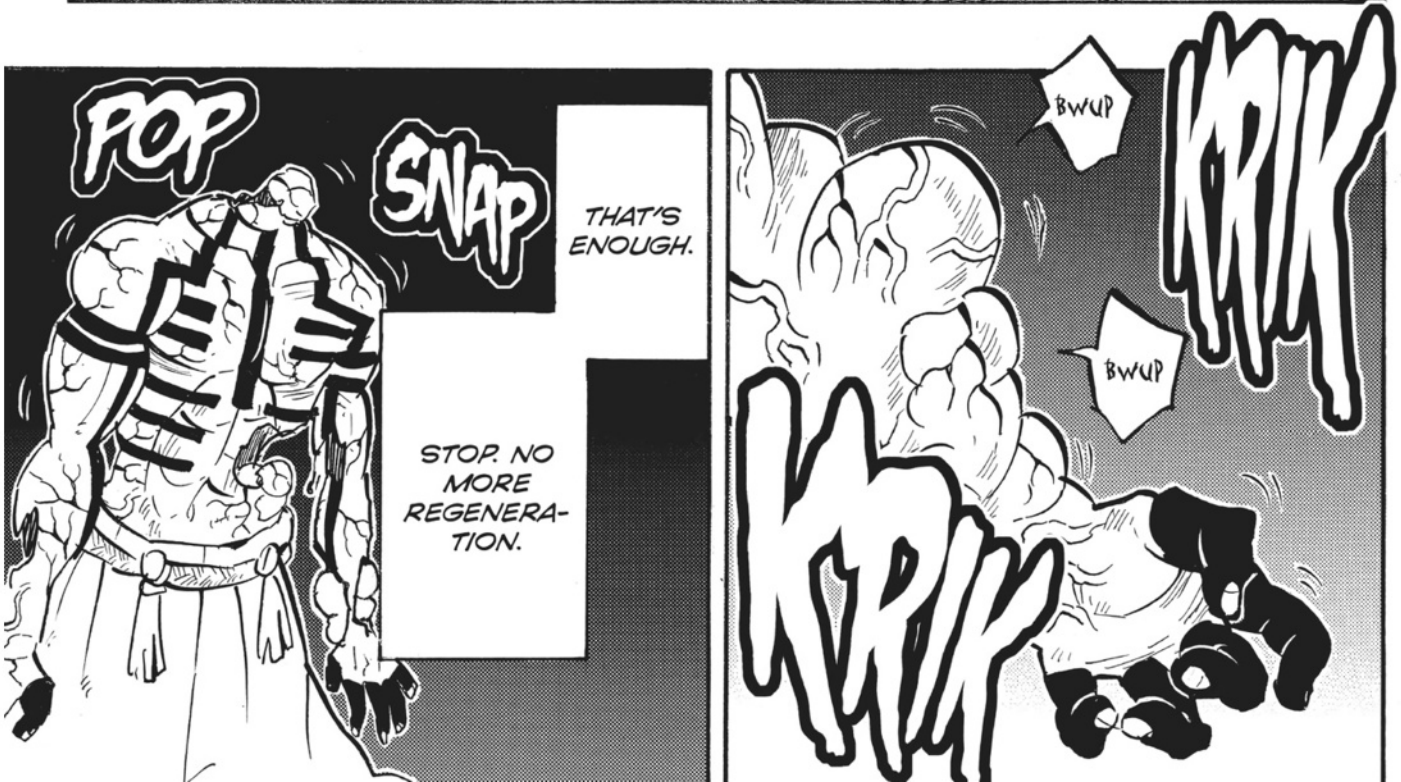
PUNCHES WON'T STOP HIM!!
MY SWORD WENT FLYING!
OH NO, NO, NO!

I'LL TAKE GIYU OUTSIDE THE ATTACK RANGE!!
AKAZA IS TRYING TO USE THE ANNIHILATION TECHNIQUE HE USED AGAINST RENGOKU!!
FORGET ABOUT ME!
HM


THUD
HE DID IT TO HIMSELF...

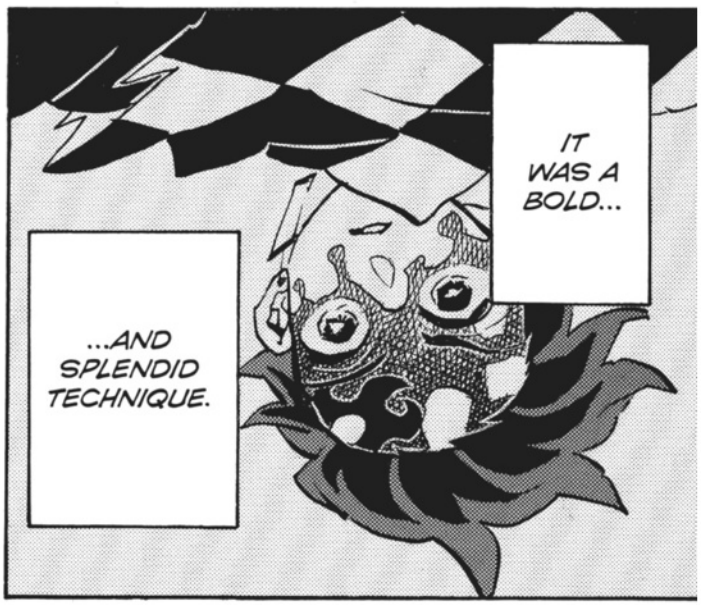
WHY DID HE SMILE?
FOR A MOMENT ...
...THE SCENT OF GRATITUDE CAME FROM AKAZA.
HUFF
HUFF
WHY DID HE ATTACK HIMSELF?
WHY ....?


PAP
PAP
PAP
PAP


POP
SNAP
THAT'S ENOUGH.
STOP. NO MORE REGENERA-TION.
BWUP
BWUP
KRIK
KRIK

IN THAT MOMENT, I SUFFERED TOTAL DEFEAT.
I LOST.
THE FIGHT IS OVER.

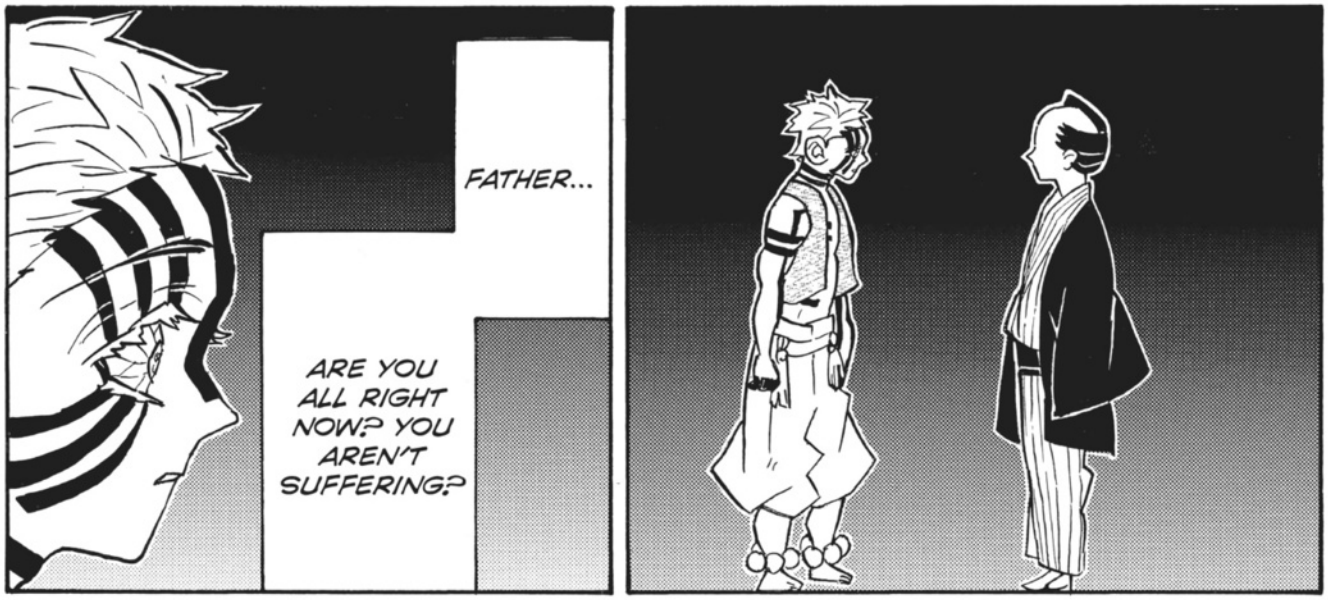
...AND SLASHED BEFORE I COULD FULLY LAUNCH MY ATTACK.
HE PERFECTLY READ MY MOVES AND SPUN IN RIGHT ON THE EDGE OF CONTROL...

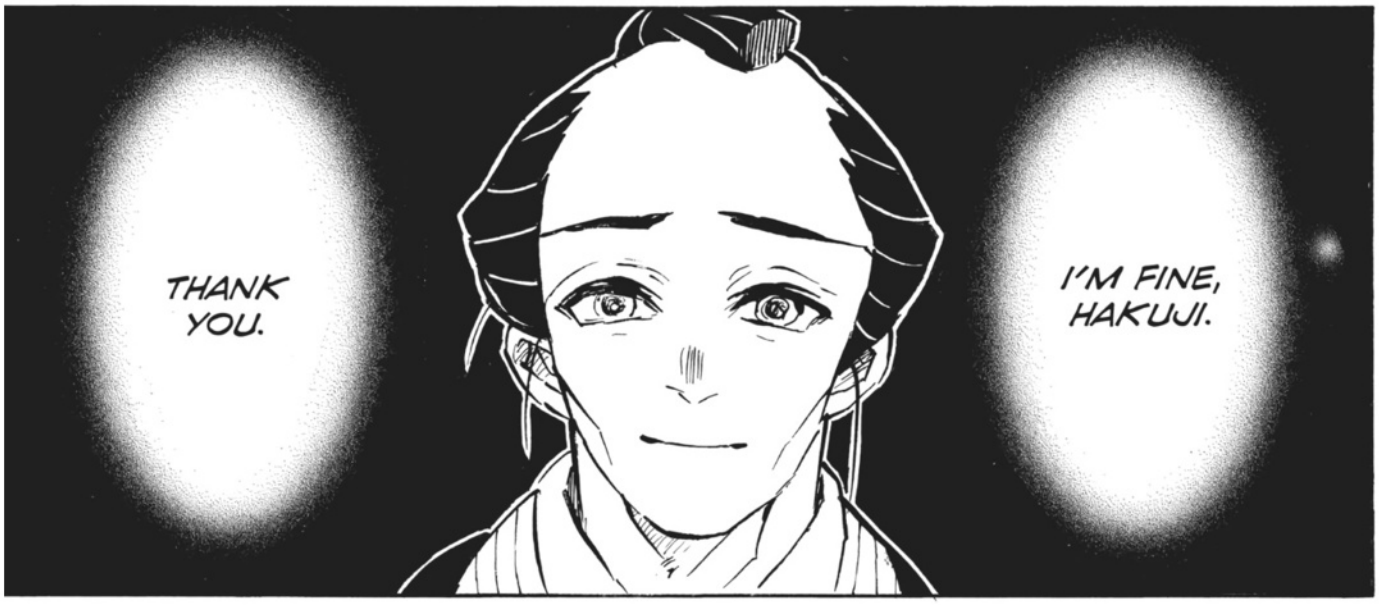

...AND SPLENDID TECHNIQUE.
IT WAS A BOLD...

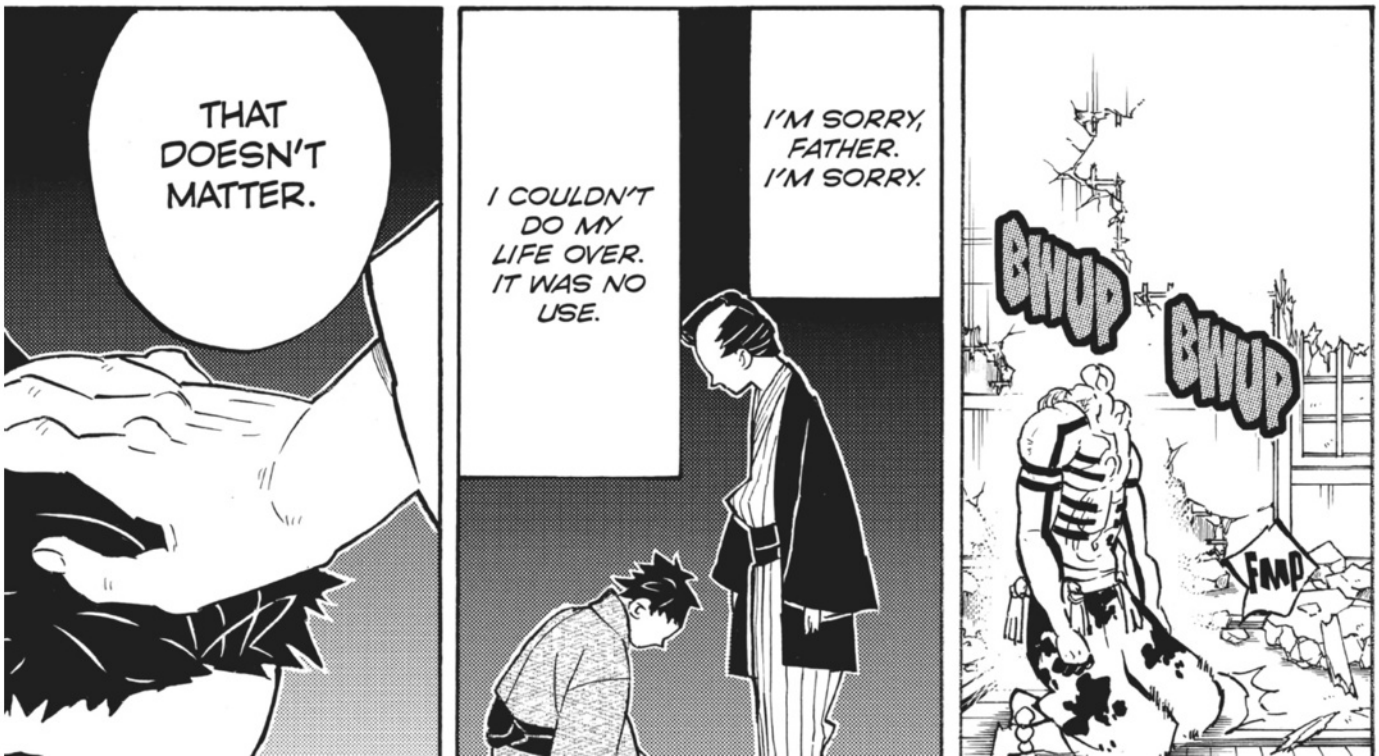
OH...
...HE STOPPED.

PLIP
PLAP
...DOES HE WANT TO GO?
WHERE ...

IT'S OVER.
SO NOW...
...I WANT TO GO TO HELL GRACE-FULLY.


FATHER...
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT NOW? YOU AREN'T SUFFERING?

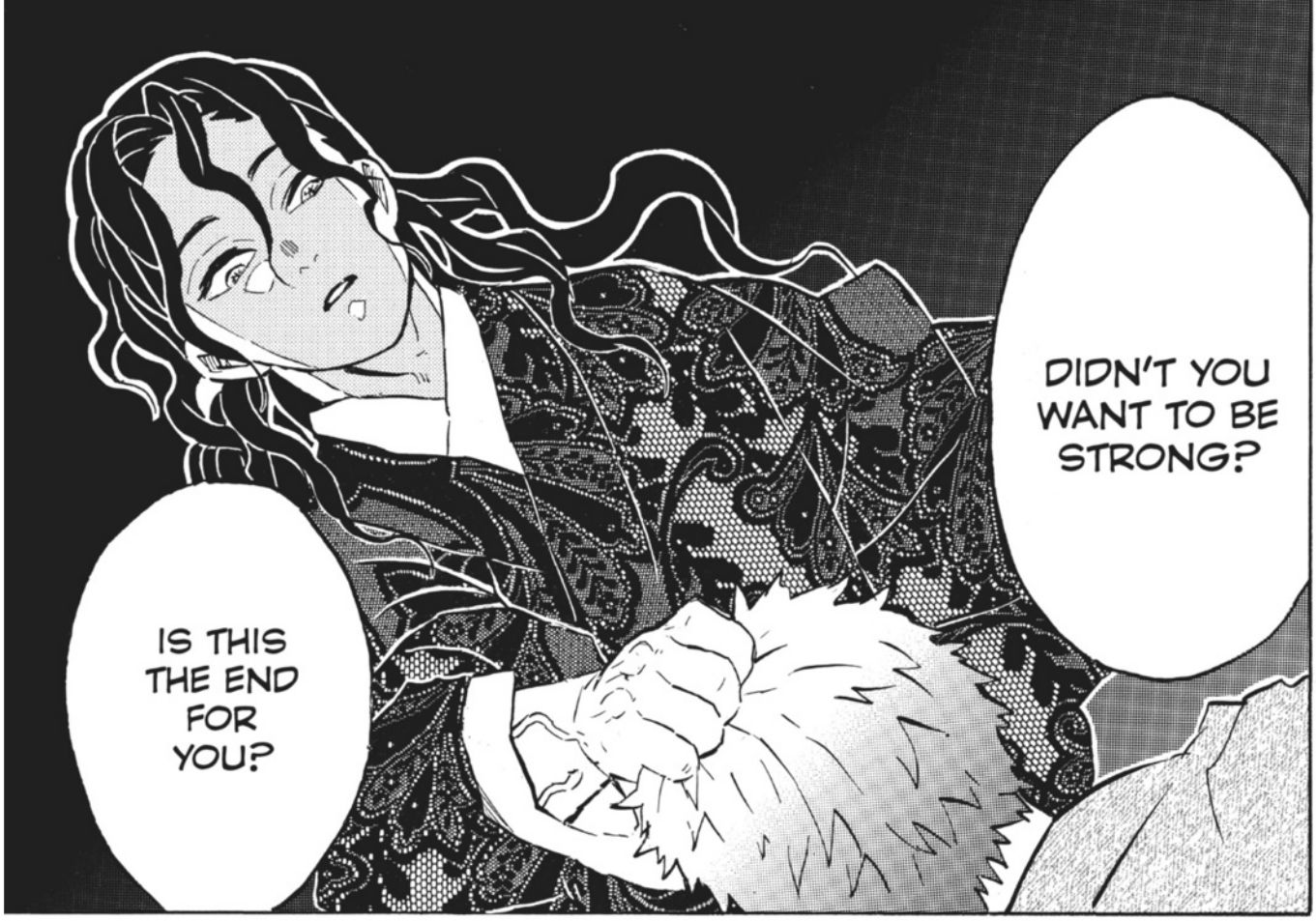

THANK YOU.
I'M FINE, HAKUJI.


THAT DOESN'T MATTER.
I COULDN'T DO MY LIFE OVER. IT WAS NO USE.
I'M SORRY, FATHER. I'M SORRY.
BWUP
BWUP
FMP

EVEN IN DEATH, WE WOULD NOT FORSAKE YOU.
WHATEVER YOU BECOME...
...A SON IS A SON. A STUDENT IS A STUDENT.

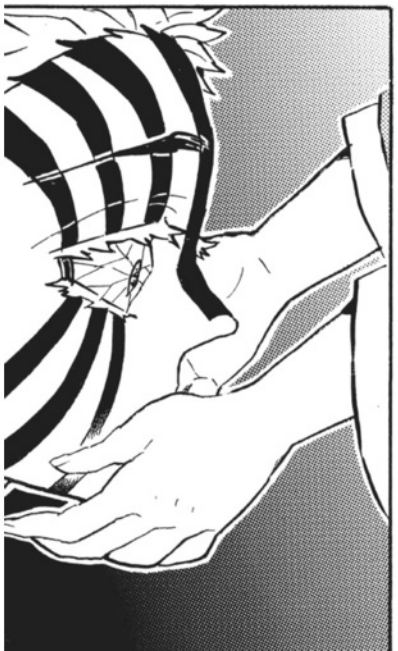
...TAKE YOU TO HEAVEN.
BUT WE CANNOT...

GRIP
MASTER ...


DIDN'T YOU WANT TO BE STRONG?
IS THIS THE END FOR YOU?

THAT'S RIGHT. I'M GOING TO BE STRONG.
I WANT TO BE STRONG.

AKAZA...

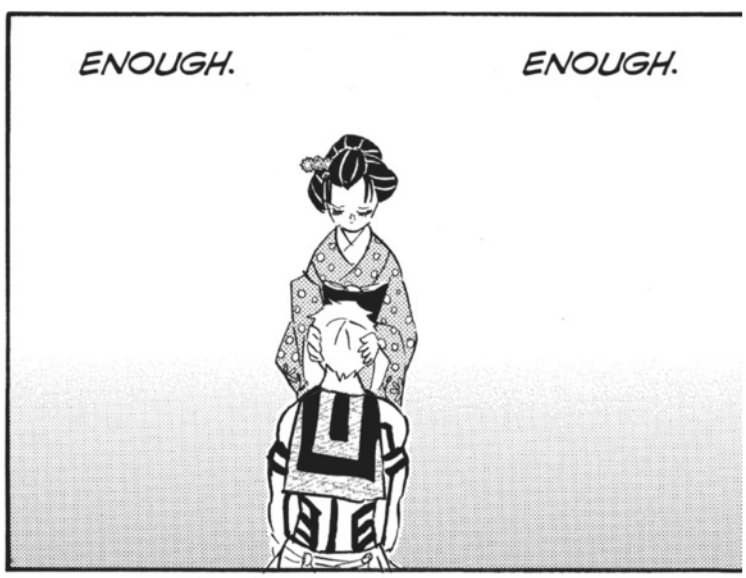


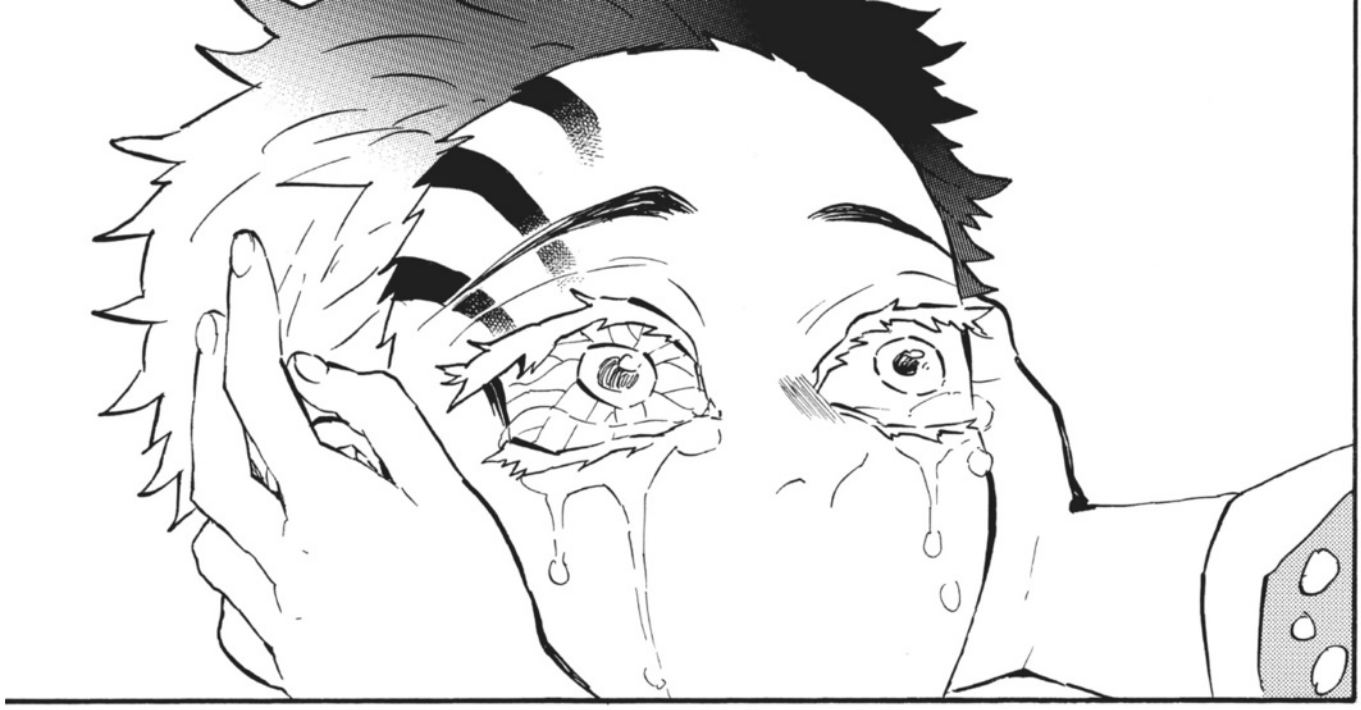
I CAN STILL GET STRONGER.
I MUST FULFILL MY PROMISE.

KRIK KRIK
SO WHAT IF HE CUT OFF MY HEAD?
LOSING DOESN'T MATTER. I'LL KILL THEM ALL.

THANK YOU, HAKUJI.
YOU'VE DONE ENOUGH.

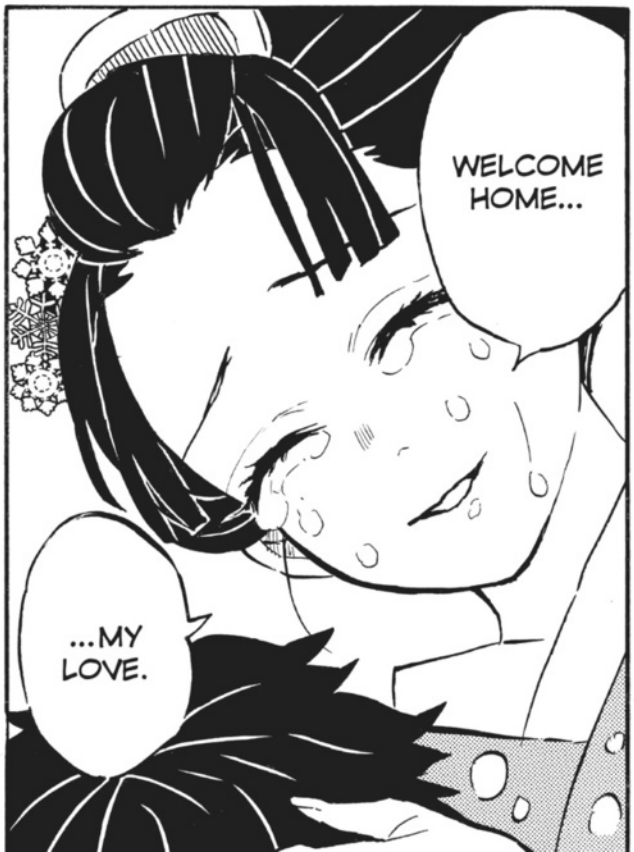
AKAZA!!


ENOUGH.
ENOUGH.



I'M SORRY I COULDN'T PROTECT YOU!
I'M SORRY I WASN'T WITH YOU WHEN YOU NEEDED ME!
FORGIVE ME!
FORGIVE ME!

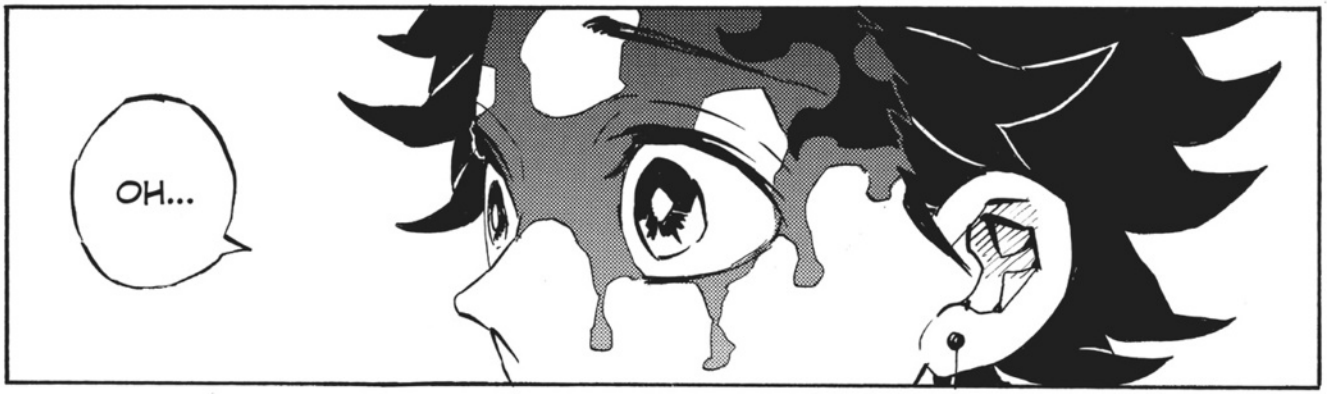
FORGIVE ME! PLEASE FORGIVE ME!
FORGIVE ME!!
I COULDN'T KEEP...
...A SINGLE PROMISE!!

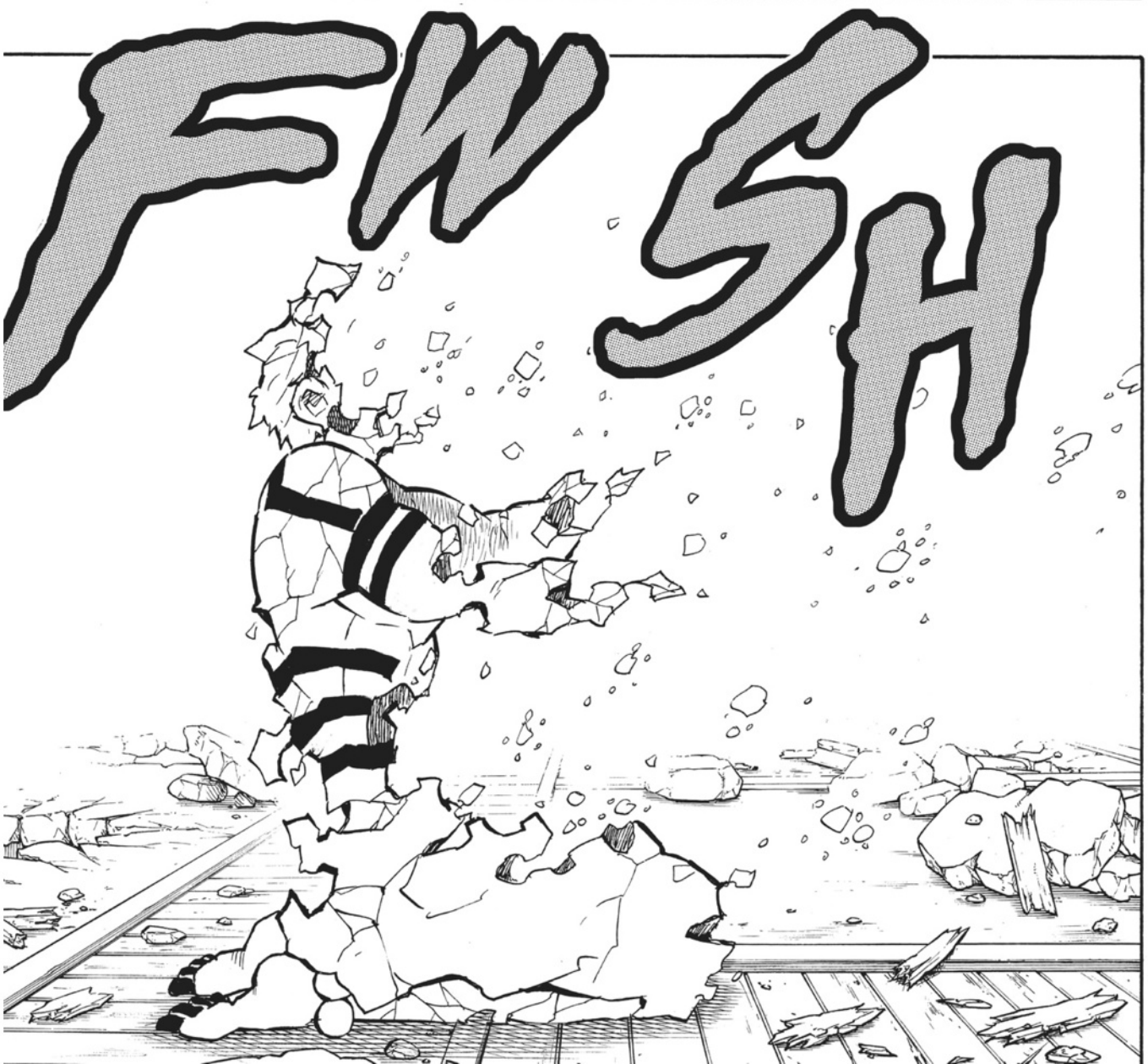

WELCOME HOME...
...MY LOVE.

I'M GLAD YOU REMEMBERED US.

I'M GLAD YOU RETURNED TO YOUR ORIGINAL SELF.

KRUMBL
BLUP
BLUP

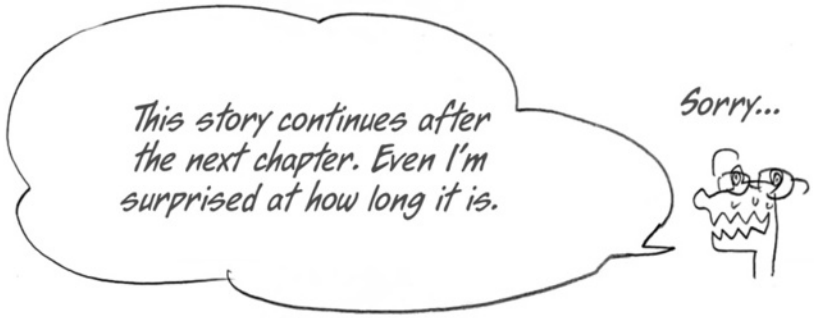

OH...


FWSH

EXTRA TIDBITS

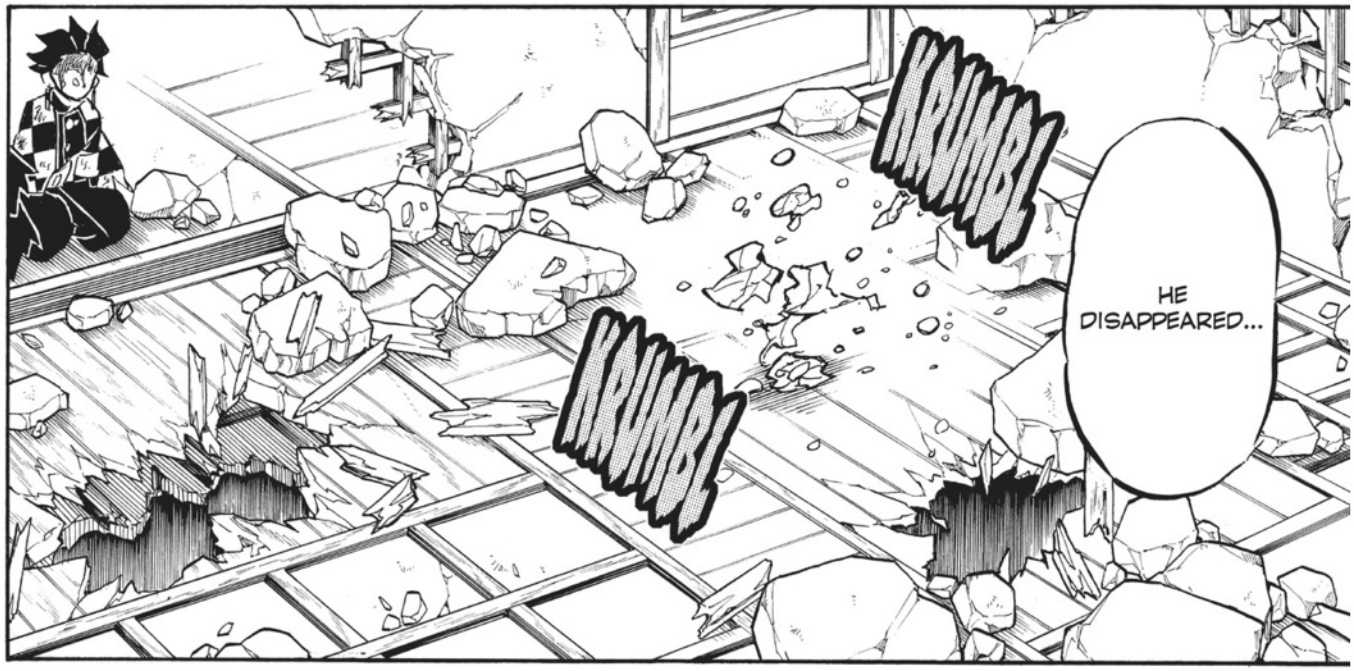
The neighboring dojo had a son and heir who was about Koyuki's age. He liked Koyuki, but he had an extremely violent and arrogant personality, so he was unable to show proper consideration for her weak constitution. When she wasn't feeling well, he forced her to go outside with him and she had an asthma attack. Seeing that, he was frightened and ran away, leaving her to suffer. If Hakuji hadn't found her, she would have died.

Hakuji was furious about that, leading to a feud between the Soryu Dojo and the neighboring dojo. Keizo was on standby, but Hakuji defeated nine people all by himself at just 16 years of age and forbid any involvement whatsoever with Koyuki and Soryu Dojo. Incensed, the neighboring dojo's heir drew a real sword instead of a wooden one and attacked Hakuji. Hakuji defended himself by striking the oncoming blade from the side with his fist, breaking it in two. That was the technique at which Hakuji was most proficient. He called it Bell-Splitter.



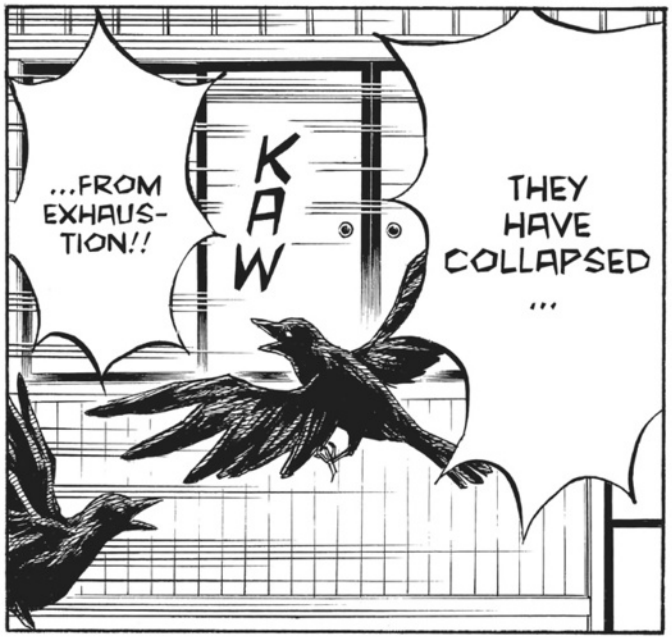
CHAPTER 157: RETURNING SPIRIT

FWOOOSH

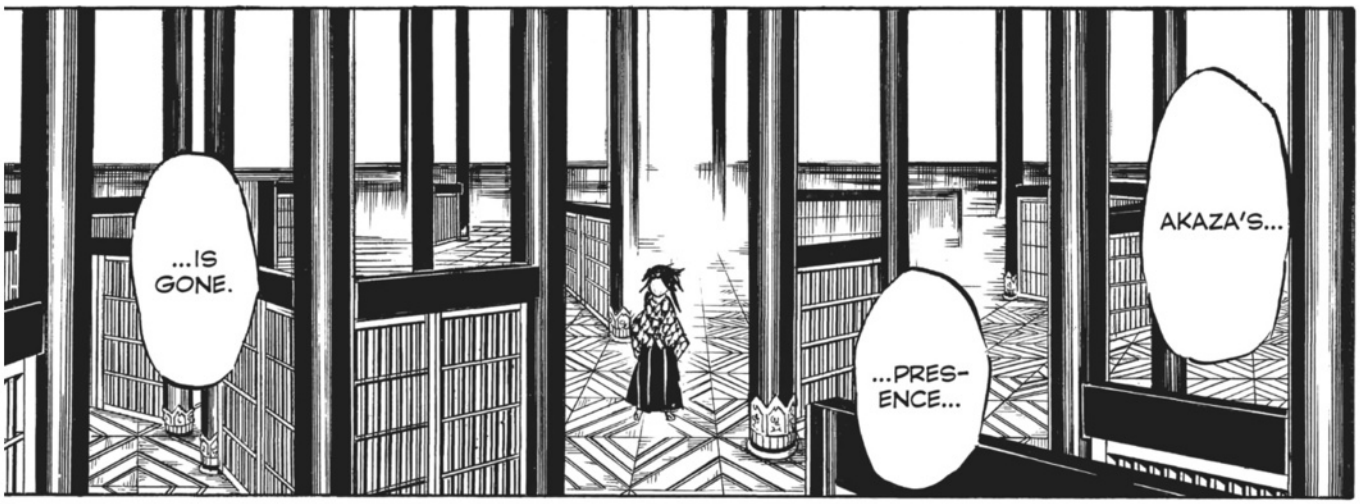

KRUMBL
KRUMBL
HE DISAPPEARED...

WHEW
IT'S...
... OVER.

THUD
HUFF
...I HAVE...
NEXT...
...TO HURRY...
HUFF
...TO TAMAYO.
TANJIRO...
...
SHNK
STAGGER


...FROM EXHAUS-TION!!
KAW
THEY HAVE COLLAPSED ...

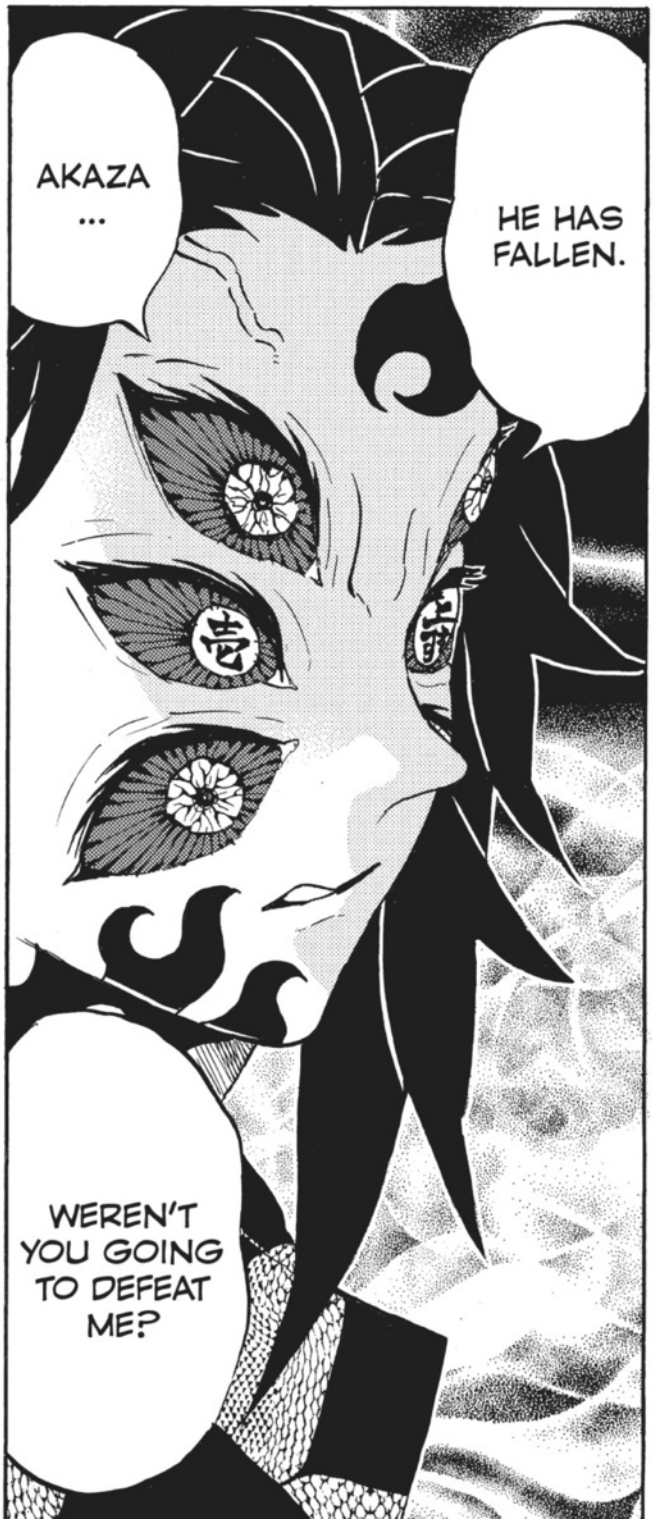
TANJIRO AND GIYU...
...HAVE DEFEATED AKAZA!

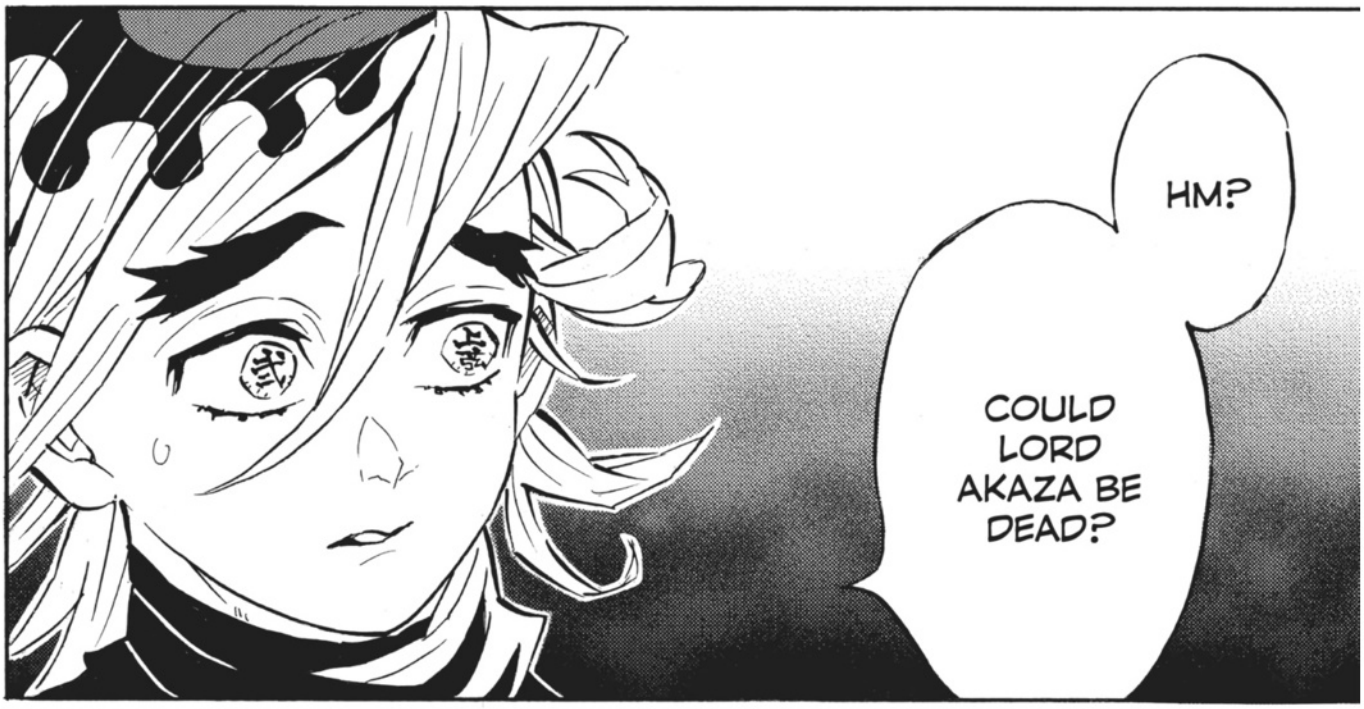

AKAZA'S...
...PRES-ENCE...
...IS GONE.

*EYES: UPPER 1

SHNK
A PATH HAD OPENED FOR HIM TO ATTAIN FURTHER HEIGHTS...
...BUT HE RENOUNCED IT HIMSELF.

HOW EXCEEDINGLY *WEAK*.


HE HAS FALLEN.
AKAZA ...
WEREN'T YOU GOING TO DEFEAT ME?


HM?
COULD LORD AKAZA BE DEAD?

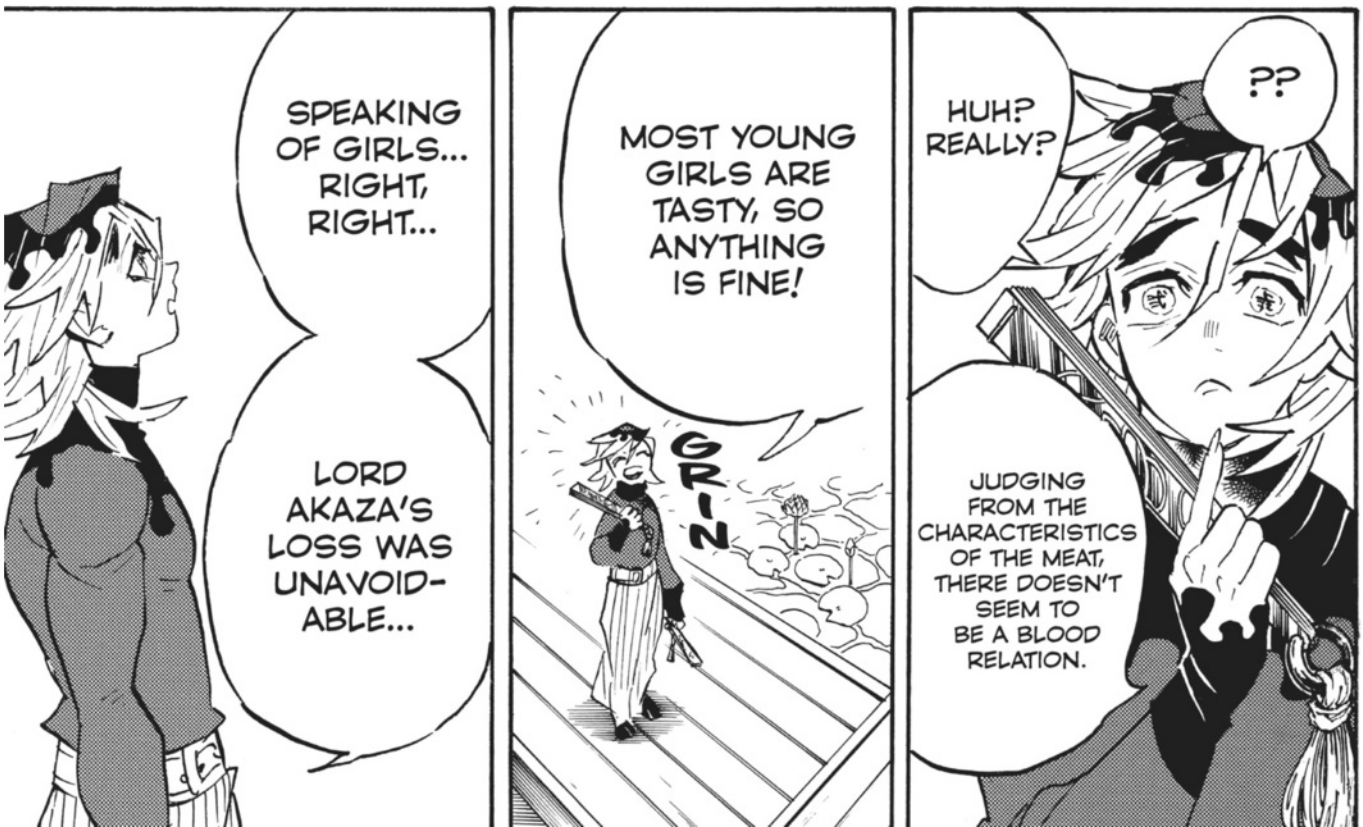
*EYES: UPPER 2

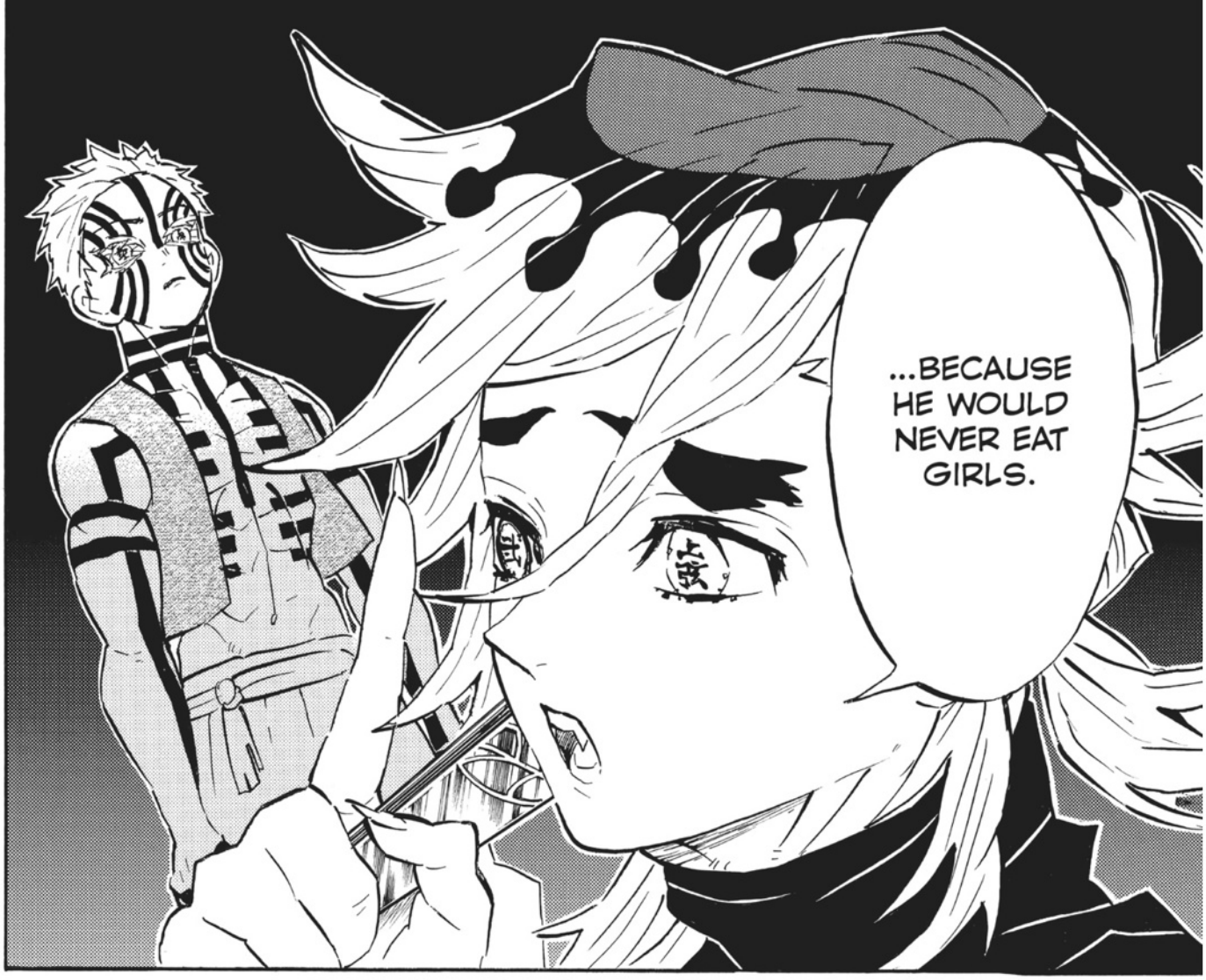
AS IF LORD AKAZA HAD BECOME SOME DIFFERENT KIND OF CREATURE...
I FELT A STRANGE SENSATION FOR A MOMENT, BUT I GUESS IT WAS MY IMAGINATION.

OH!
UM, WHAT WERE WE TALKING ABOUT?
RIGHT, RIGHT! I ASKED YOU YOUR NAME.

AH HA HA HA
BUT HE'S GONE, SO I'LL NEVER KNOW!

I AM KANAO TSUYURI.
KANAE KOCHO...
GRIT
GRIT
...AND SHINOBU KOCHO'S YOUNGER SISTER.
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF

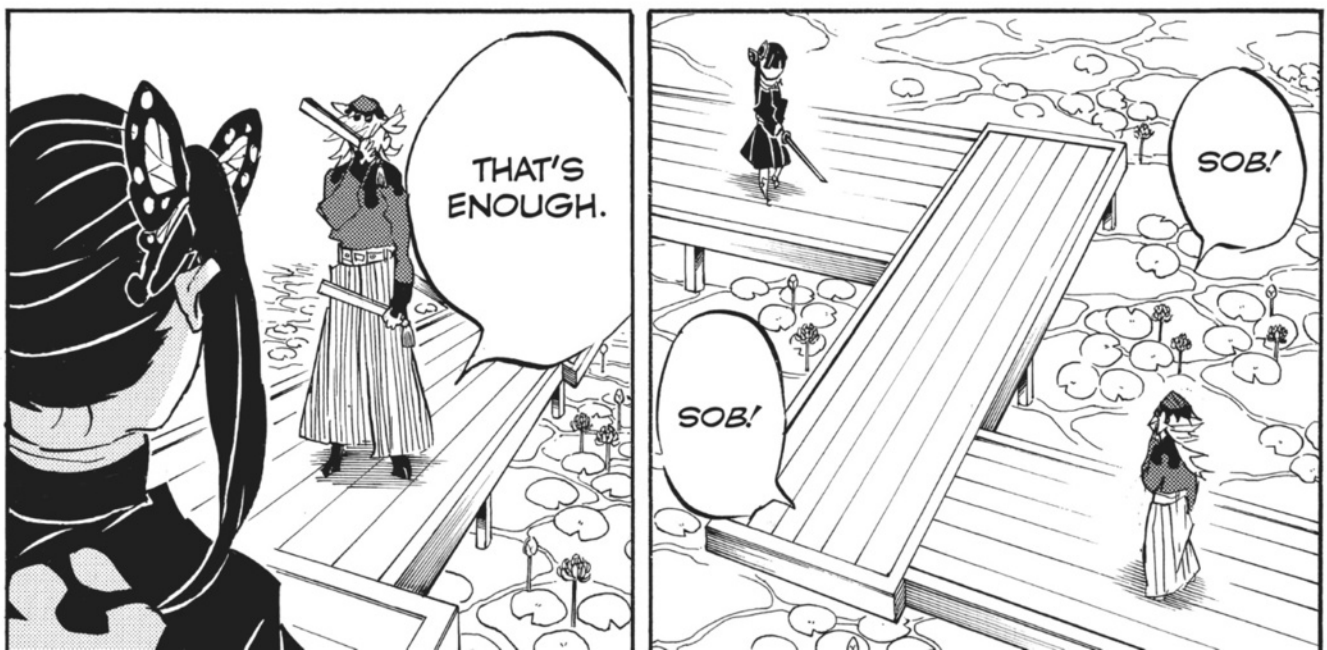

SPEAKING OF GIRLS... RIGHT, RIGHT...
LORD AKAZA'S LOSS WAS UNAVOID-ABLE...
MOST YOUNG GIRLS ARE TASTY, SO ANYTHING IS FINE!
GRIN
HUH? REALLY?
??
JUDGING FROM THE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE MEAT, THERE DOESN'T SEEM TO BE A BLOOD RELATION.


...BECAUSE HE WOULD NEVER EAT GIRLS.

I TOLD HIM WOMEN ARE SO NUTRITIOUS BECAUSE THEY CAN RAISE BABIES IN THEIR STOMACHS...
...SO EATING LOTS OF THEM MAKES YOU STRONGER FASTER.

BUT NOT ONLY WOULD HE NOT EAT THEM, LORD AKAZA WOULDN'T EVEN KILL THEM!
IN THE END, *HIS LORDSHIP* TOLERATED IT, BUT I WOULDN'T CALL THAT FAIR.
AKAZA WAS ALLOWED TO LIVE AND GOT SPECIAL TREATMENT.

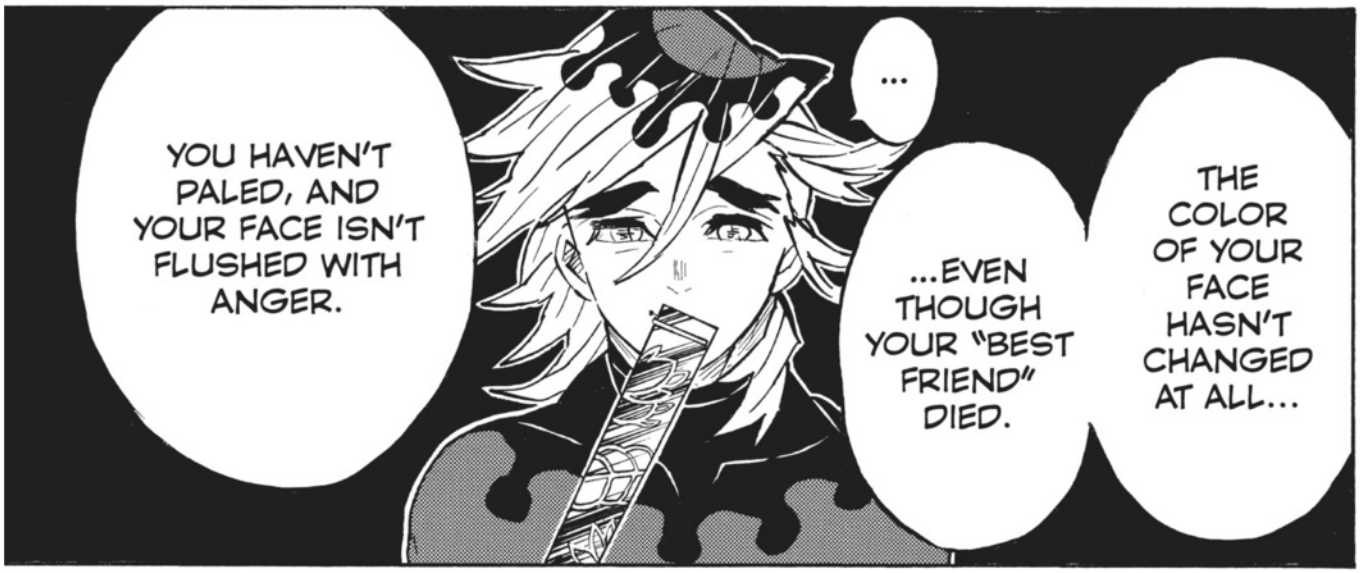
BUT...
...NOW HE'S DEAD.
HOW SAD...
HE WAS MY BEST FRIEND, BUT...

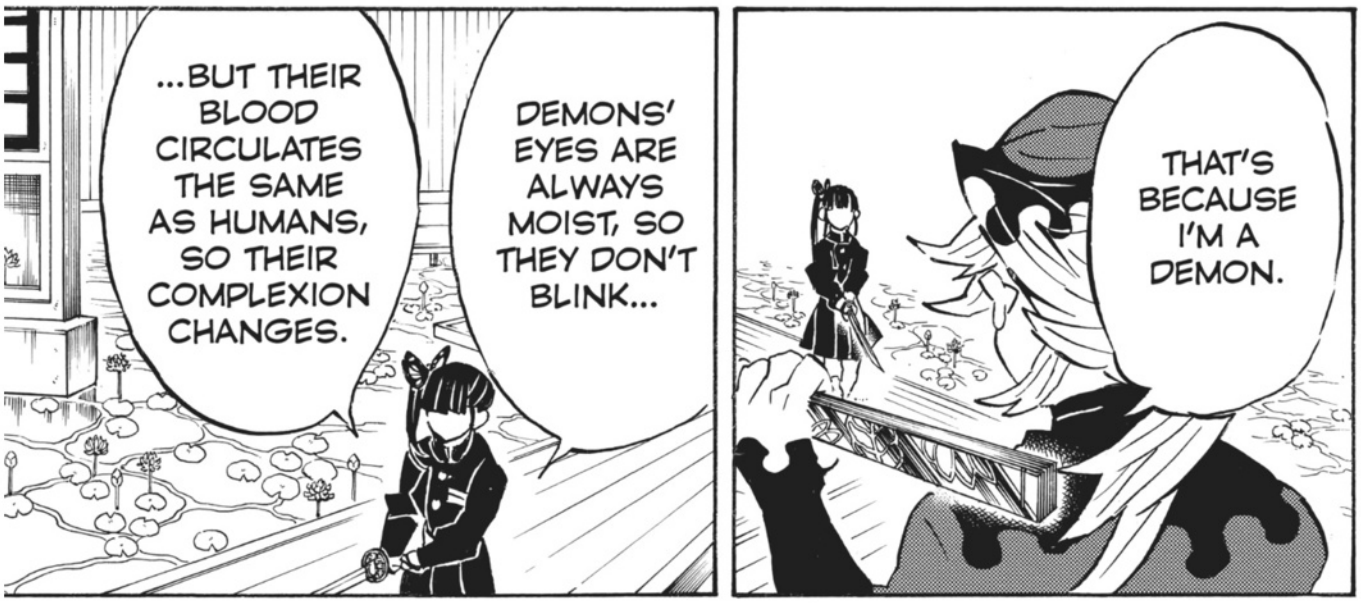

THAT'S ENOUGH.
SOB!
SOB!

YOU CAN STOP SPOUTING YOUR LIES.

WHAT?

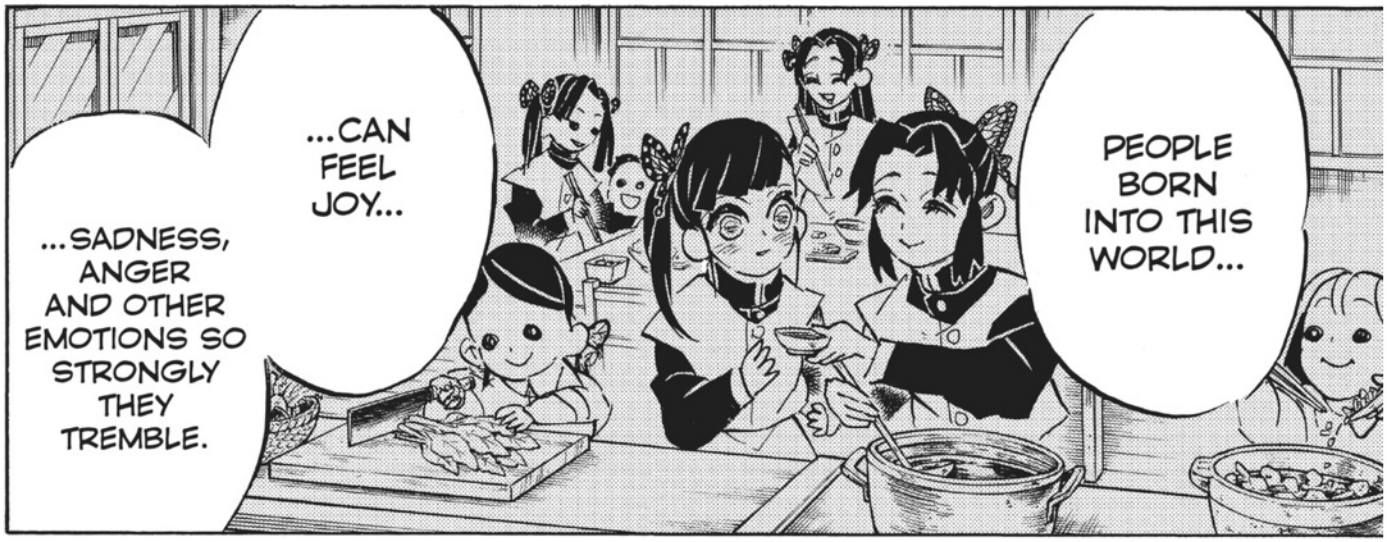
YOU'RE NOT SAD. NOT EVEN A LITTLE.
...IS A THOUGHT-LESS LIE.
I KNOW EVERY WORD COMING FROM YOUR MOUTH...

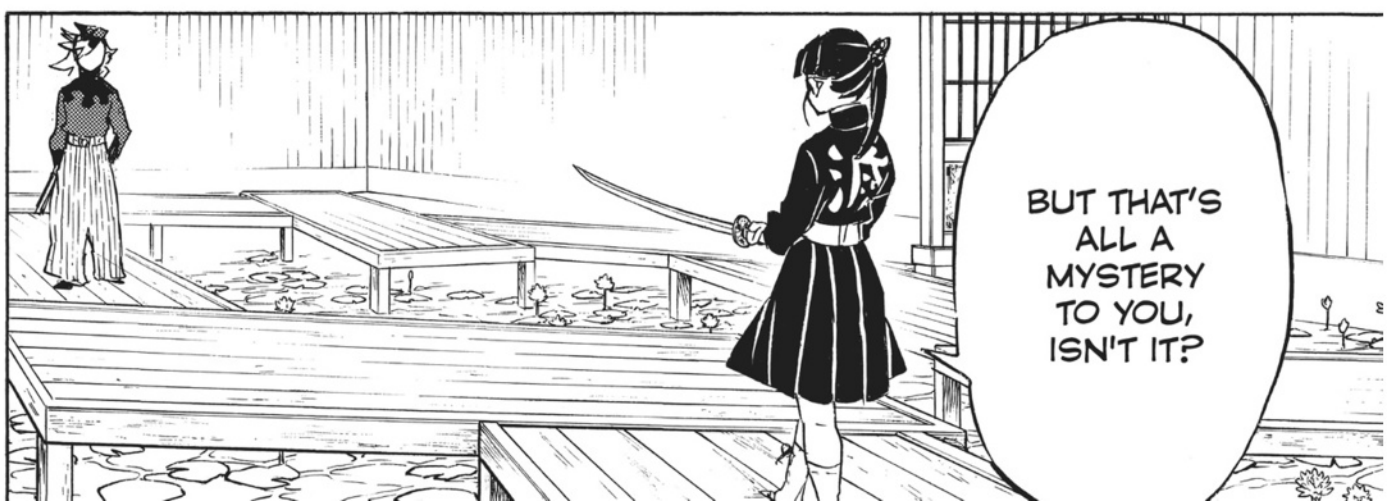

...
THE COLOR OF YOUR FACE HASN'T CHANGED AT ALL...
...EVEN THOUGH YOUR "BEST FRIEND" DIED.
YOU HAVEN'T PALED, AND YOUR FACE ISN'T FLUSHED WITH ANGER.

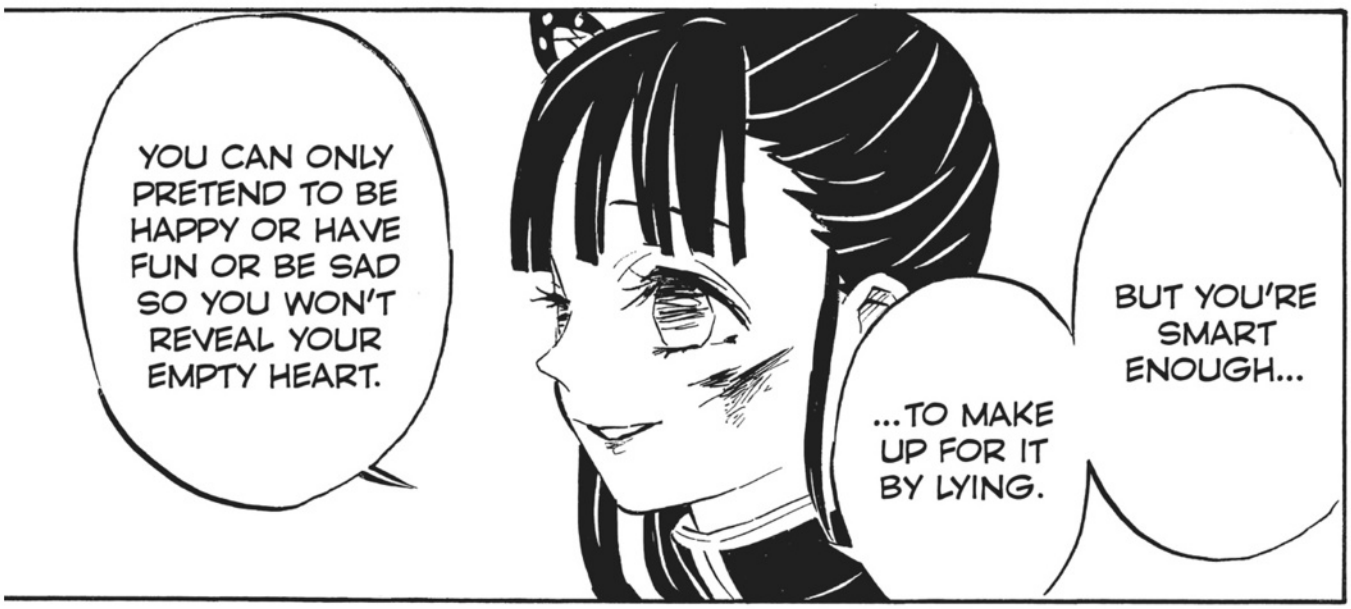

DEMONS' EYES ARE ALWAYS MOIST, SO THEY DON'T BLINK...
...BUT THEIR BLOOD CIRCULATES THE SAME AS HUMANS, SO THEIR COMPLEXION CHANGES.
THAT'S BECAUSE I'M A DEMON.

AS SHE DIED, KANAE SAID...
...SHE WAS SORRY FOR YOU.

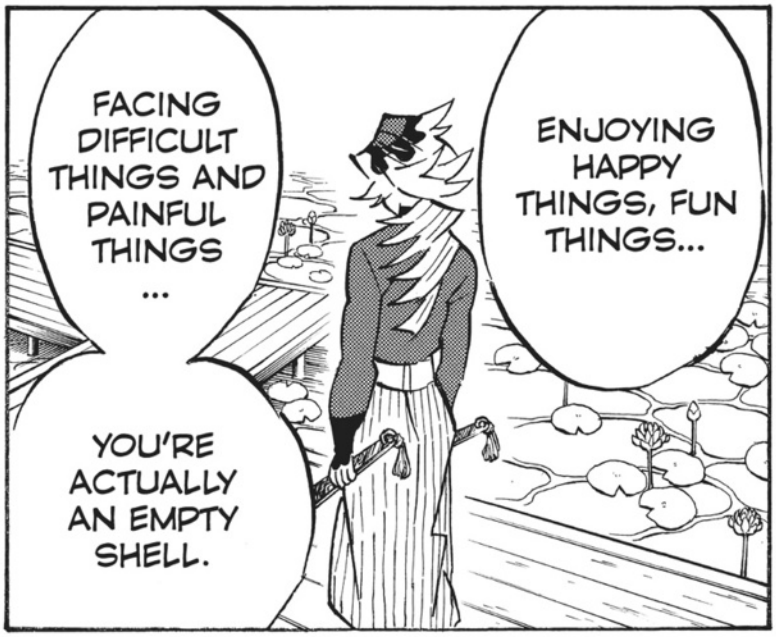
YOU DON'T FEEL *ANYTHING*, DO YOU?


PEOPLE BORN INTO THIS WORLD...
...CAN FEEL JOY...
...SADNESS, ANGER AND OTHER EMOTIONS SO STRONGLY THEY TREMBLE.


BUT THAT'S ALL A MYSTERY TO YOU, ISN'T IT?


YOU CAN ONLY PRETEND TO BE HAPPY OR HAVE FUN OR BE SAD SO YOU WON'T REVEAL YOUR EMPTY HEART.
...TO MAKE UP FOR IT BY LYING.
BUT YOU'RE SMART ENOUGH...

A RIDICULOUS JOKE.
TEE-HEE...


FACING DIFFICULT THINGS AND PAINFUL THINGS ...
YOU'RE ACTUALLY AN EMPTY SHELL.
ENJOYING HAPPY THINGS, FUN THINGS...

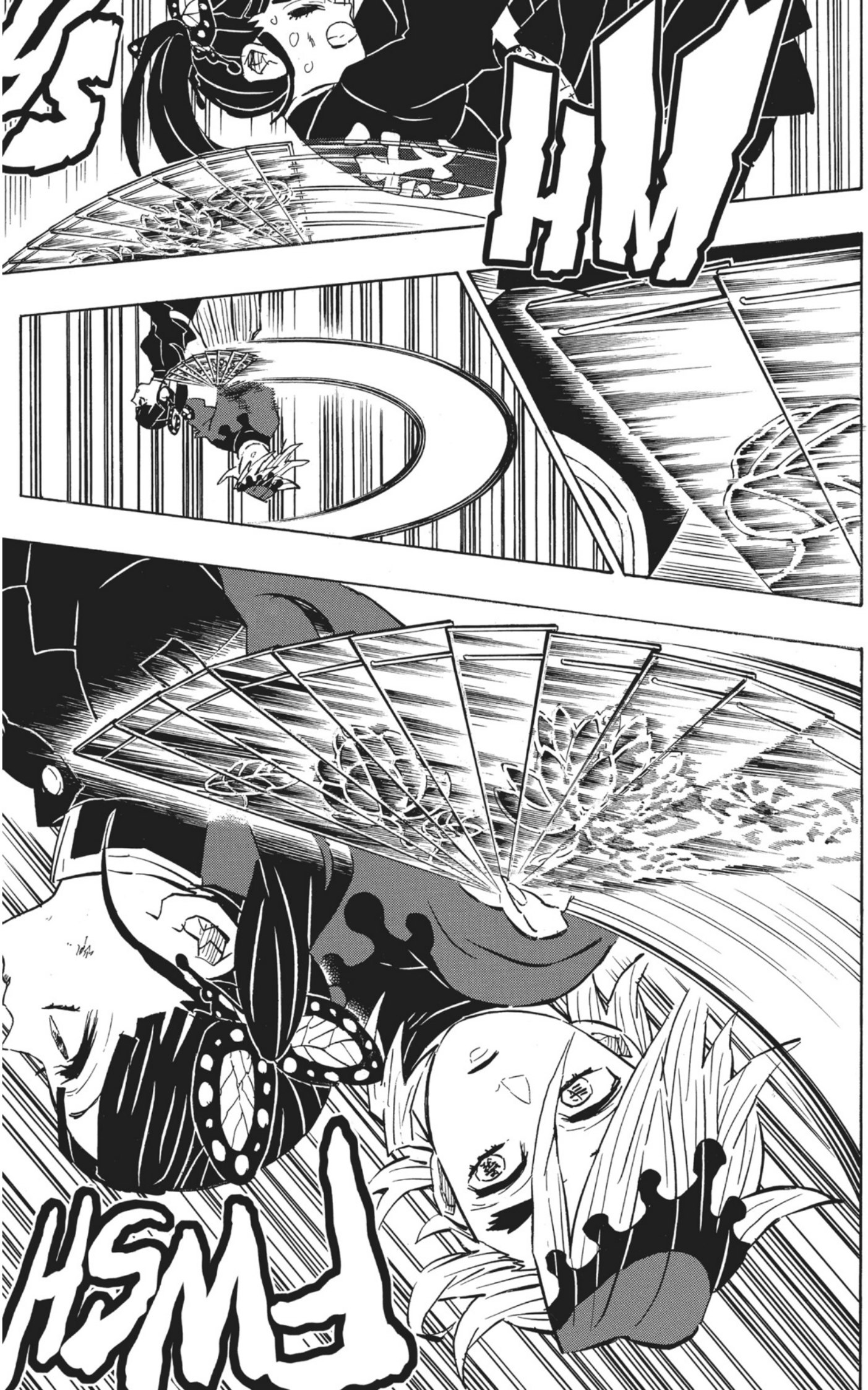
...WERE YOU EVEN BORN?
WHY...

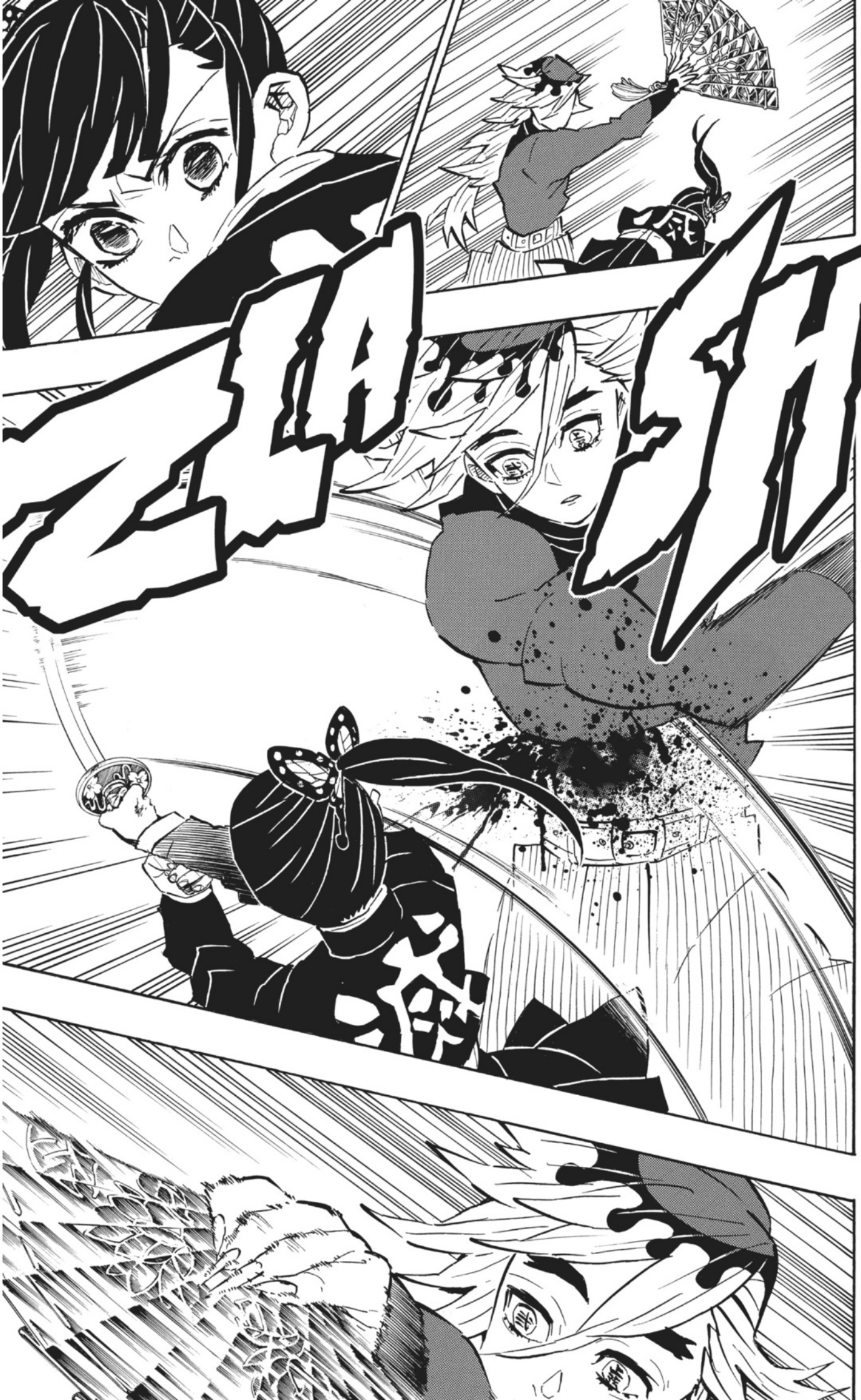
...I HAVE SPOKEN...
FWIK
FWIK
...TO MANY GIRLS, BUT...
YOU KNOW...
...THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE TALKED TO SUCH AN UNKIND GIRL AS YOU.
WHY DO YOU SAY SUCH *SPITEFUL* THINGS?

THUMP
THUMP

I WANT TO CUT OFF YOUR HEAD AND SEND YOU TO HELL AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.
IT'S BECAUSE I *HATE* YOU.
DON'T YOU KNOW?

BECAUSE THERE'S NO POINT TO YOU LIVING.
YOU DISGUST ME, AND THE SOONER YOU DIE THE BETTER.
YOU DON'T SEEM SO SMART.
LET ME REPHRASE THAT.


HM
HSM


ズバッ

FIO
SH
GLUP
SHE'S ADAPTING TO MY MOVES AND FIGHTING STYLE.
SHE'S REACTING FASTER.

SHING
THIS GIRL...
GWUP GWUP
EVEN IF THAT HAND SIGN SAID, "DON'T BREATHE IT IN"...
...IT WOULD BE HARD NOT TO WHILE ENGAGED IN CLOSE COMBAT.
SPLAT
SHE ISN'T INHALING THE POWDER FREEZE SCATTERED BY MY FAN.
WOOOOO
...MIGHT JUST BE...
...A LITTLE MORE SKILLFUL THAN THE HASHIRA GIRL I JUST ATE.

EXTRA TIDBITS CONTINUED

The beauty of that technique moved the master of the neighboring dojo so much that he admitted defeat, apologized for his son's inappropriate behavior and stopped bothering the Soryu Dojo.

A few quiet years passed, but then the master of the neighboring dojo died. When the heir heard about Hakuji and Koyuki's marriage, he knew he would lose a fight, so he poisoned the Soryu Dojo's well, partially at the prompting of the dojo adherents. An old woman living nearby witnessed the heir and his followers leaving the Soryu Dojo.

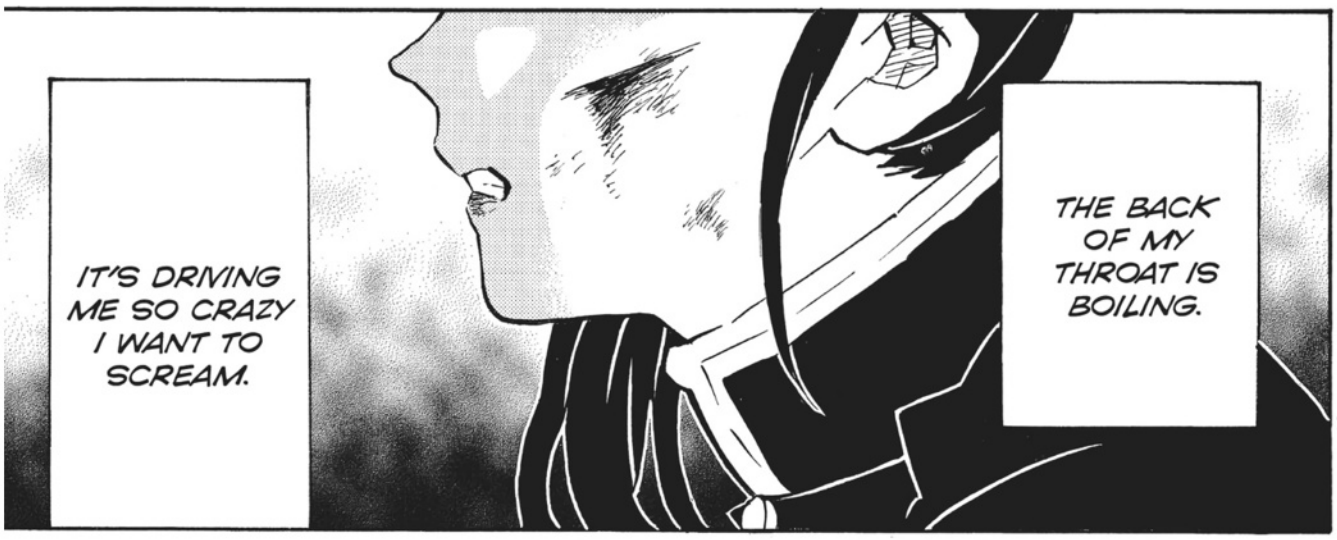
After they drank poison, Keizo carried Koyuki to a physician's house, coughing up blood as he ran. Koyuki had already died, but Keizo took a few hours to die and suffered a long time.

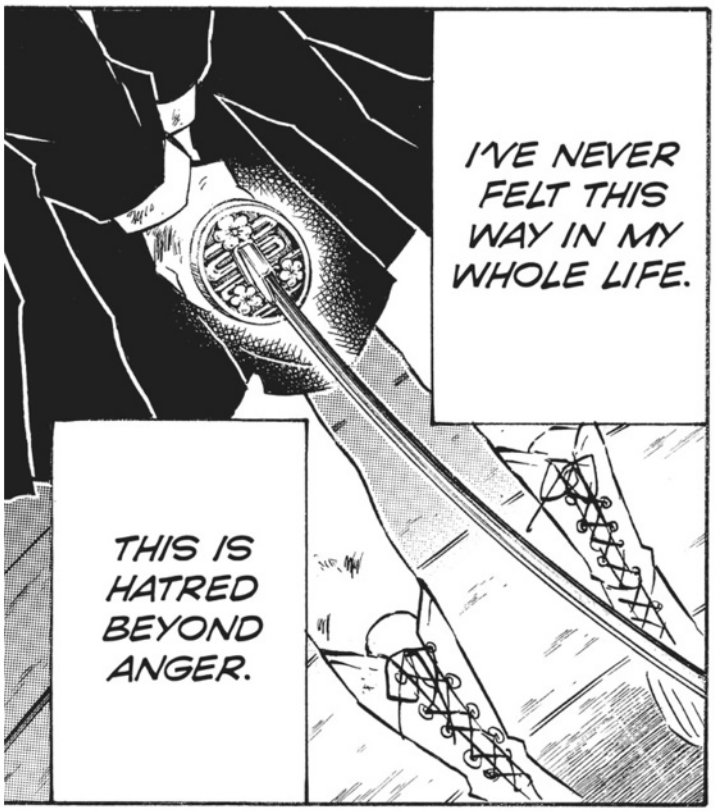
CHAPTER 158:
CHAOS

FW!
MY SKIN WON'T STOP CRAWLING.
IF I DON'T SEND STRENGTH ALL THE WAY TO MY FINGER-TIPS...
...MY BODY IMMEDIATELY STARTS TREMBLING.

I CAN STAND UP TO HIM THANKS TO THIS FIERCE ANGER.
IT'S LIKE MY BODY IS BURNING.

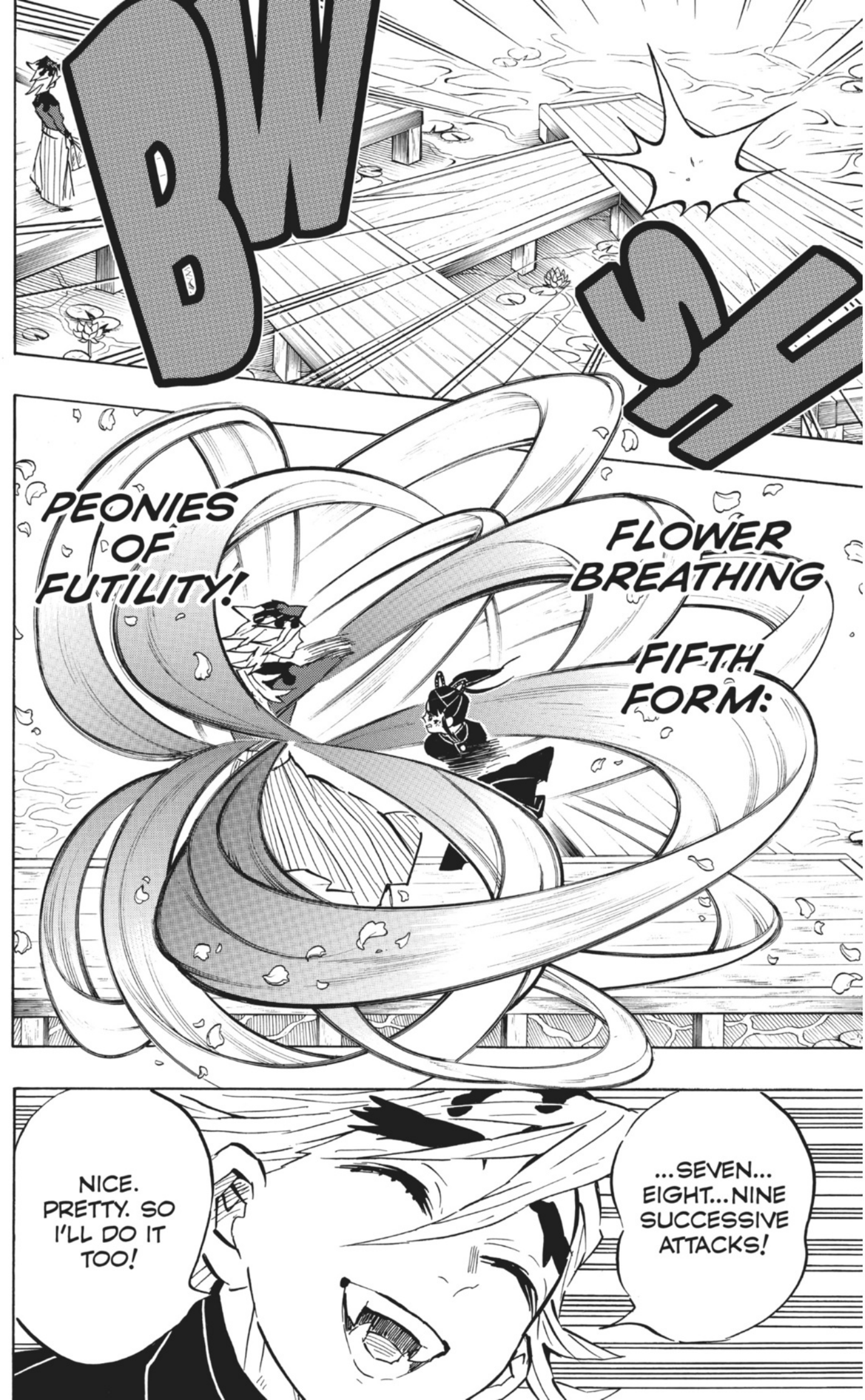
THE DEMONS I HAVE DEFEATED SO FAR...
...WERE INFANTS COMPARED TO HIM.

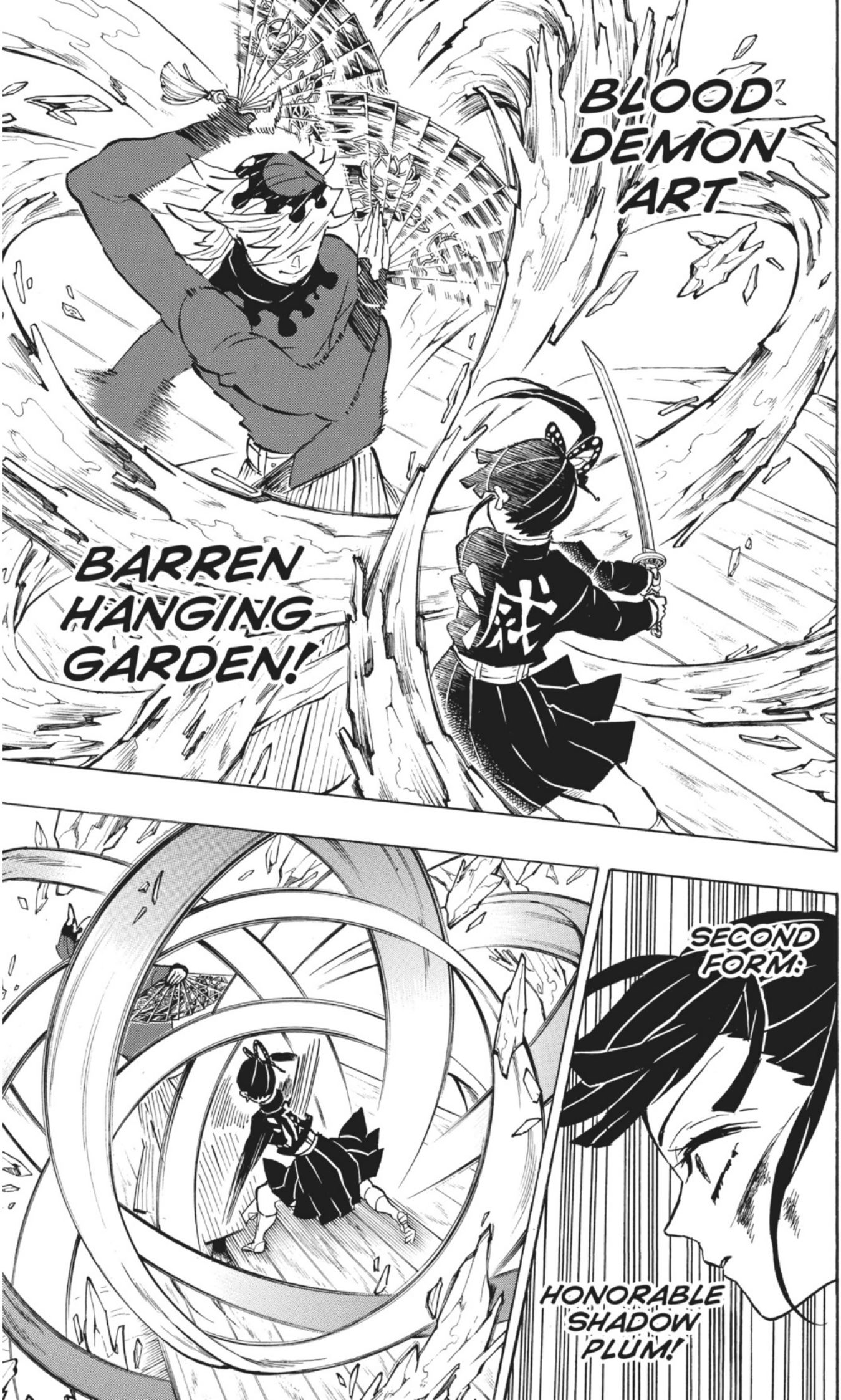

IT'S DRIVING ME SO CRAZY I WANT TO SCREAM.
THE BACK OF MY THROAT IS BOILING.

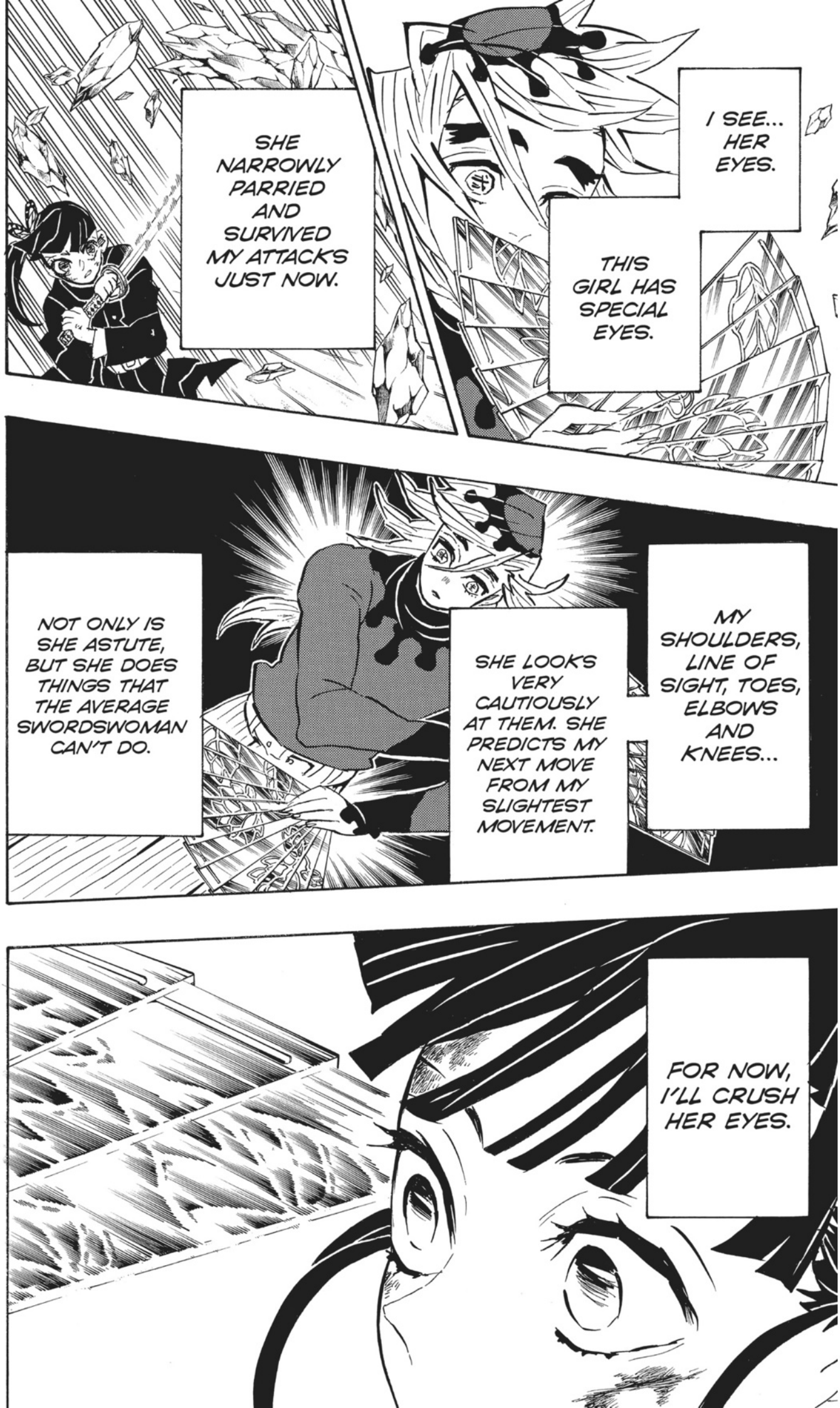

I'VE NEVER FELT THIS WAY IN MY WHOLE LIFE.
THIS IS HATRED BEYOND ANGER.

I FEEL LIKE MY BODY WILL FALL APART IF I DON'T CUT LOOSE.

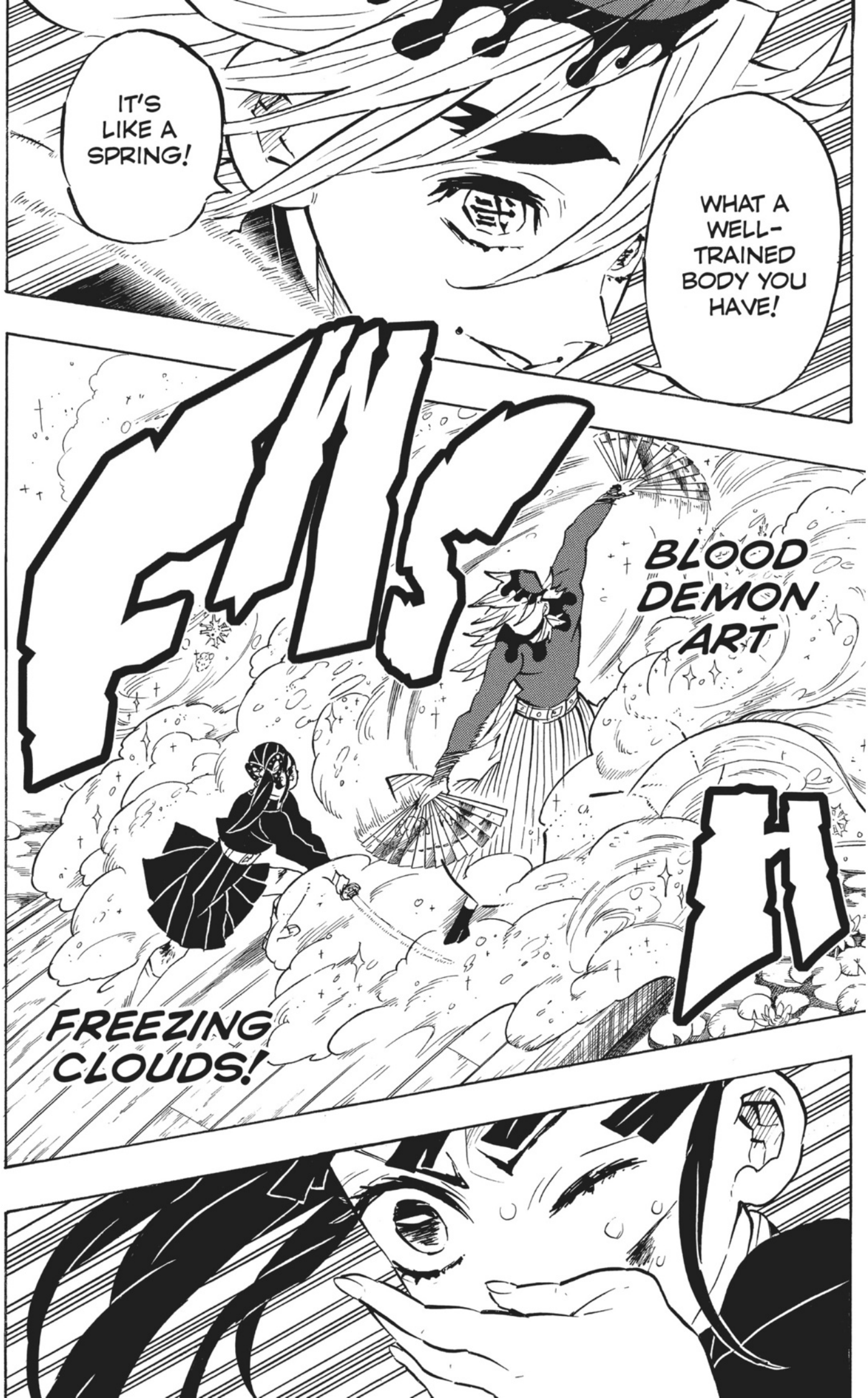
HOW DARE YOU KILL MY FAMILY
I HATE YOU!

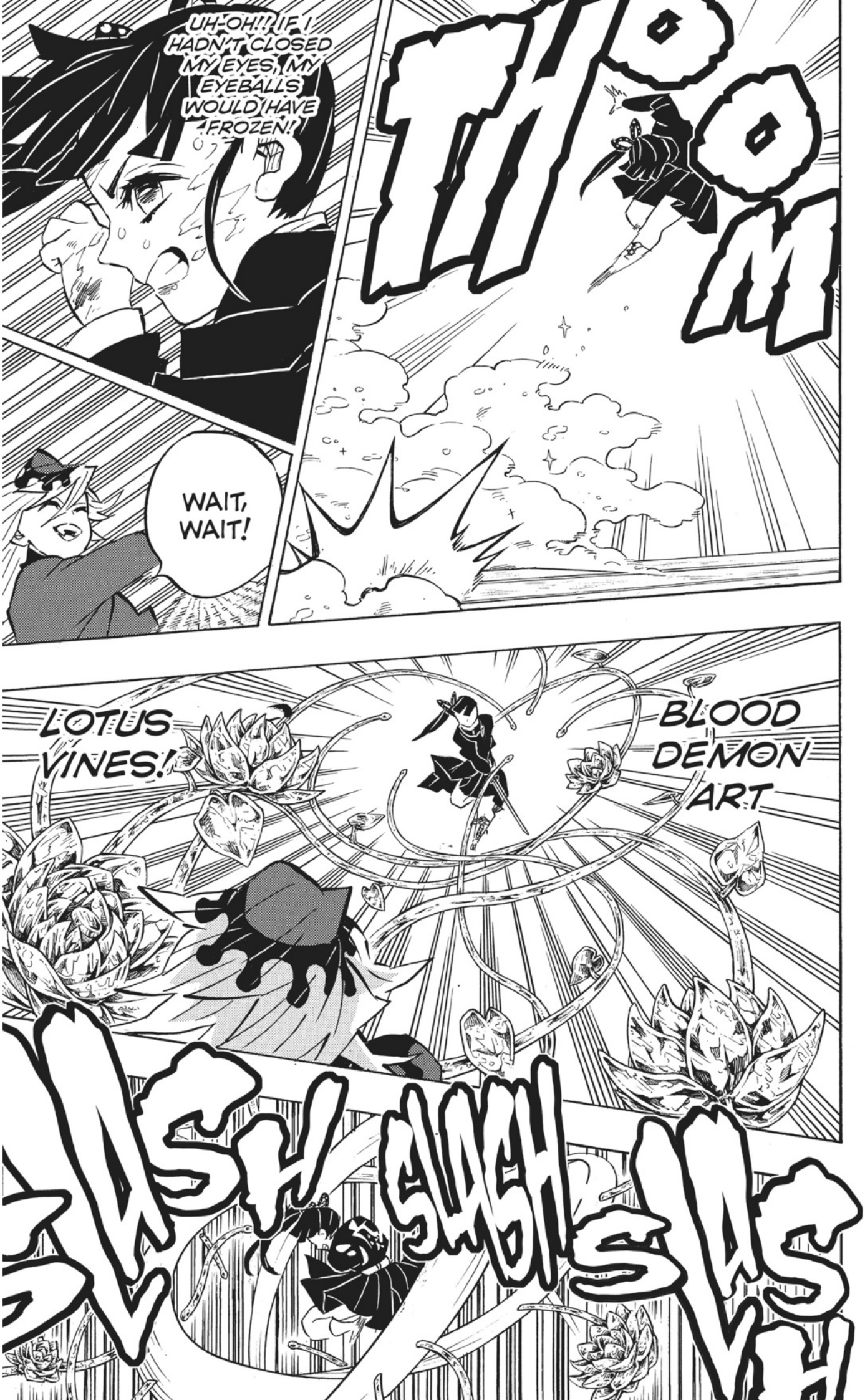

BW
SH
PEONIES OF FUTILITY!
FLOWER BREATHING
FIFTH FORM:
NICE. PRETTY. SO I'LL DO IT TOO!
...SEVEN... EIGHT...NINE SUCCESSIVE ATTACKS!

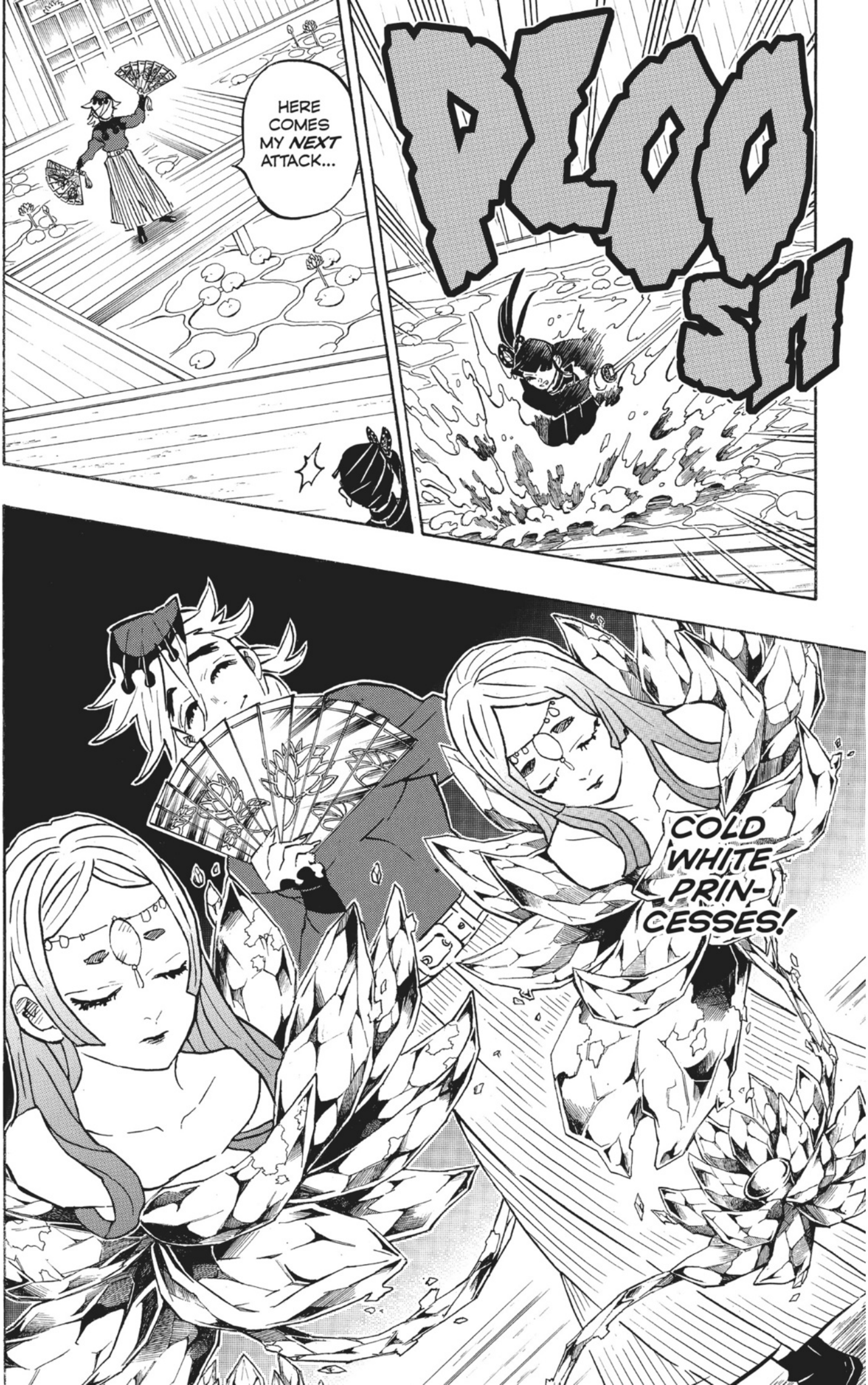

BLOOD DEMON ART
BARREN HANGING GARDEN!
SECOND FORM:
HONORABLE SHADOW PLUM!


SHE NARROWLY PARRIED AND SURVIVED MY ATTACKS JUST NOW.
I SEE... HER EYES.
THIS GIRL HAS SPECIAL EYES.
NOT ONLY IS SHE ASTUTE, BUT SHE DOES THINGS THAT THE AVERAGE SWORDSWOMAN CAN'T DO.
SHE LOOKS VERY CAUTIOUSLY AT THEM. SHE PREDICTS MY NEXT MOVE FROM MY SLIGHTEST MOVEMENT.
MY SHOULDERS, LINE OF SIGHT, TOES, ELBOWS AND KNEES...
FOR NOW, I'LL CRUSH HER EYES.

SIXTH FORM:
WHIRLING PEACH!!


IT'S LIKE A SPRING!
WHAT A WELL-TRAINED BODY YOU HAVE!
FLIP
BLOOD DEMON ART
FREEZING CLOUDS!


UH-OH!! IF I HADN'T CLOSED MY EYES, MY EYEBALLS WOULD HAVE FROZEN!
WAIT, WAIT!
THOOM
LOTUS VINES!
BLOOD DEMON ART
SLASH SLASH SLASH


HERE COMES MY *NEXT* ATTACK...
PLOP
COLD WHITE PRIN-CESSES!

FWOOO
BWAAA!
SPLISH
EMM
EMM
WHAT A BROAD-AREA TECHNIQUE! I CAN'T GET CLOSE...
IMP

WINTRY ICICLES!
!!

UNGH !!
YOU CAN'T CUT OFF MY HEAD IF YOU DON'T GET CLOSE, RIGHT?
HEY, YOU KEEP BACK-ING OFF.
HE DISAP-PEARED...
VWSH

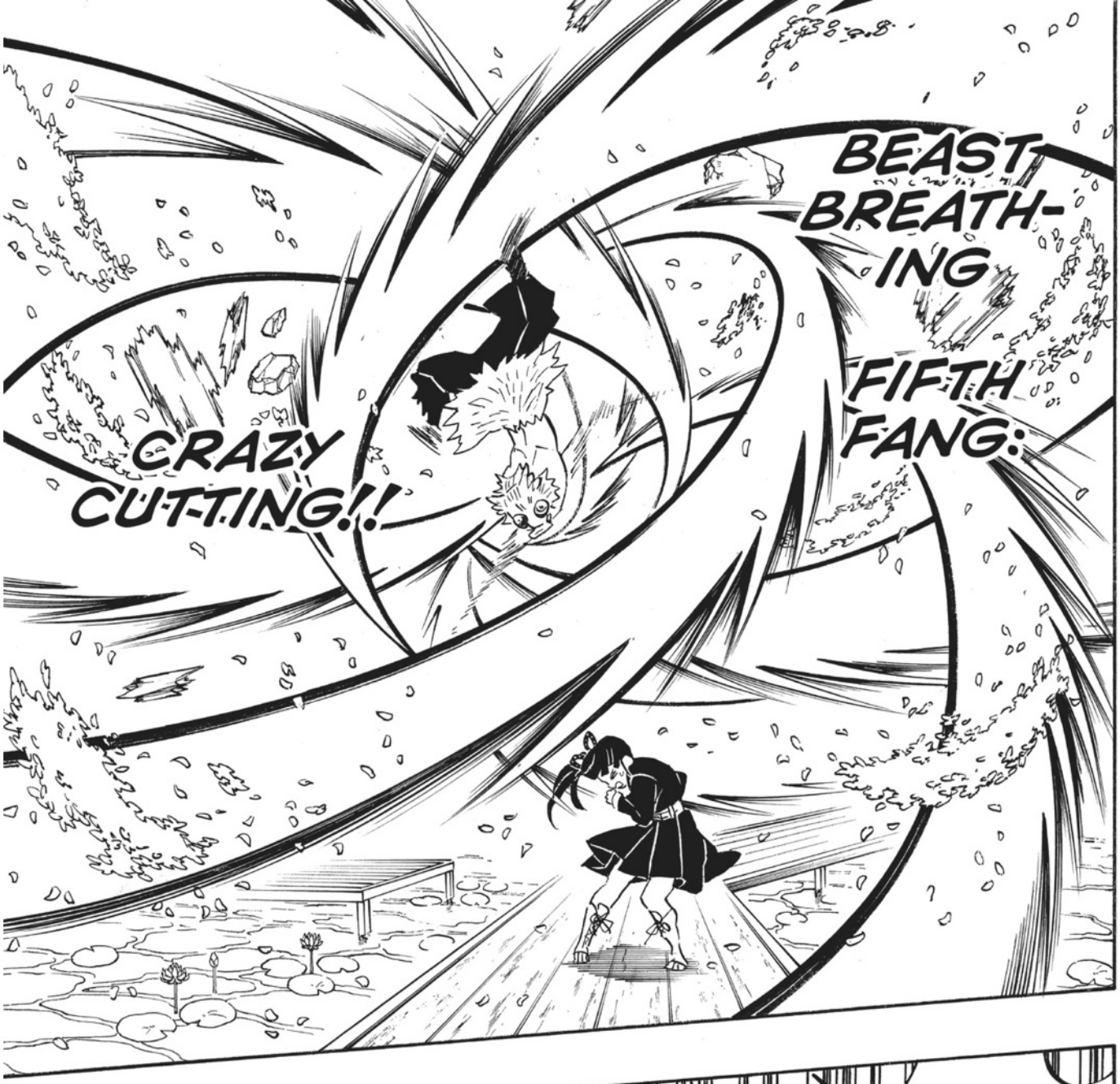
TMP
GASP
FWIP
SEE?

YOU WEREN'T HOLDING IT VERY TIGHTLY, SO I TOOK IT.
SHNK
OKAY, I'LL JUST STICK THIS...
...RIGHT HERE.
COME AND GET IT!

BLOOD DEMON ART
SCATTERING LOTUSES!
MANY BLADES?
OR A FREEZING BLOOD DEMON ART?
OBSERVE.
LOOK CLOSELY AND ASSESS.

THE PLACE OF LEAST DAMAGE...
THE LEAST PLACE...
ACCURATELY...
SEE CLEARLY...
SEE CLEAR—
FIGHT
KAWAK

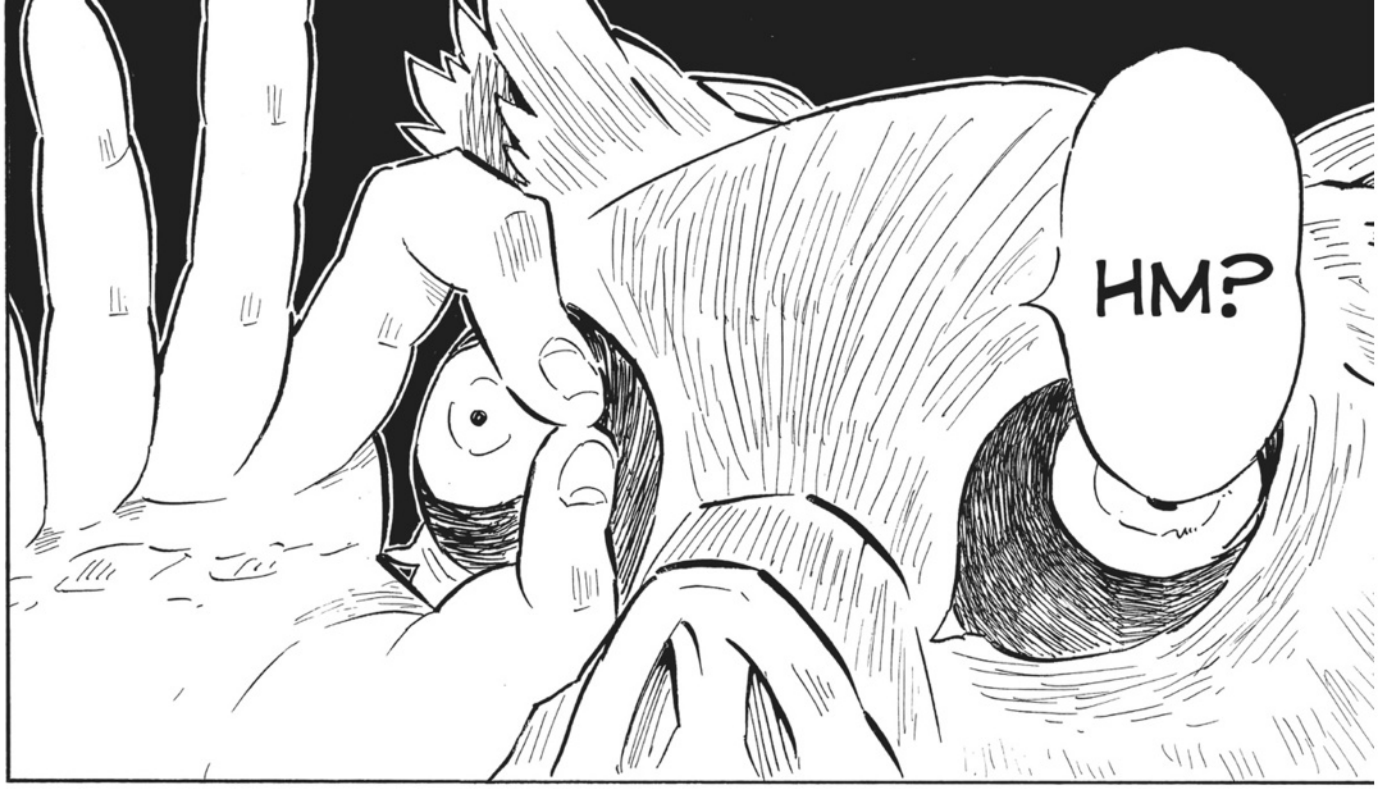
GRAAAHHH!!
OUT OF THE SKY, LORD INOSUKE'S COMIN' IN!!
?!
?!
BA WHAM

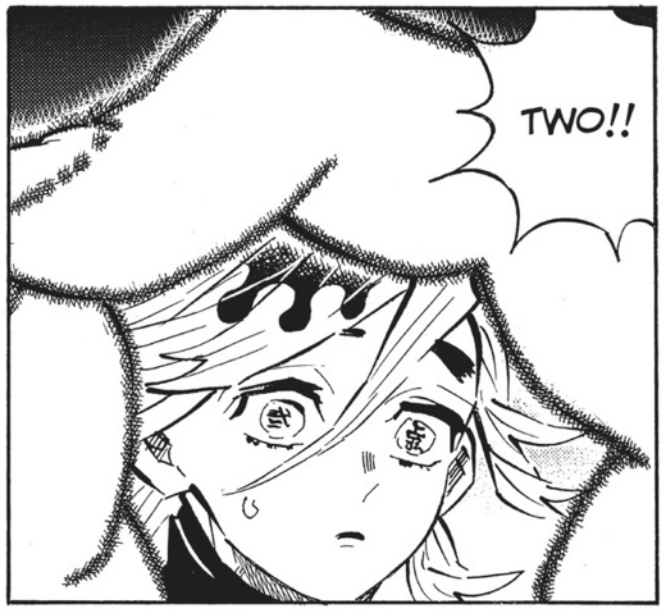

BEAST BREATH-ING FIFTH FANG:
CRAZY CUT-TING!!

HA
HAAA
SO LET'S FIGHT!
THE CROW'S GUIDANCE...
WA HA
...WAS SPOT-ON!!

KAWWW
Inosuke tormenting a Crow.
TMP
TMP
TMP
TMP
Hurry or I'll poke you!!
Got it?!
Take me to the strongest demon!

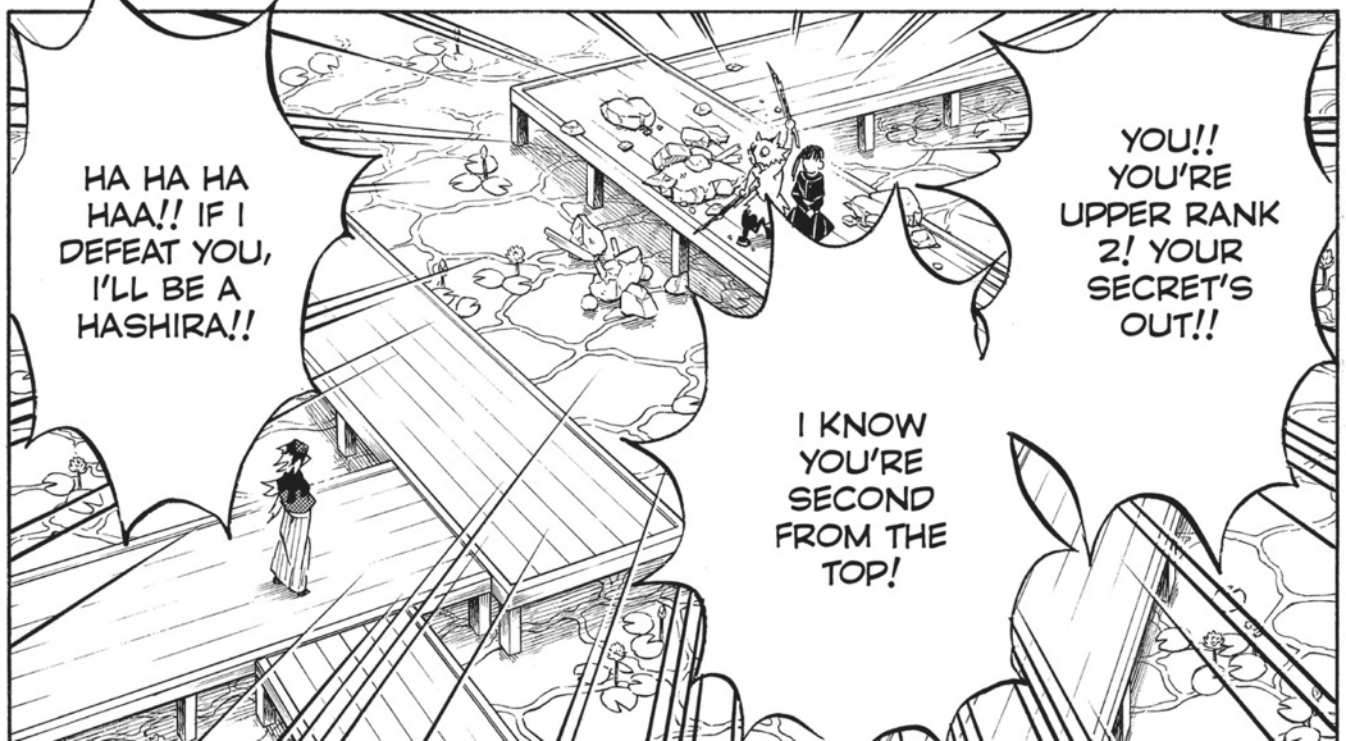
CHAPTER 159: FACE


HM?

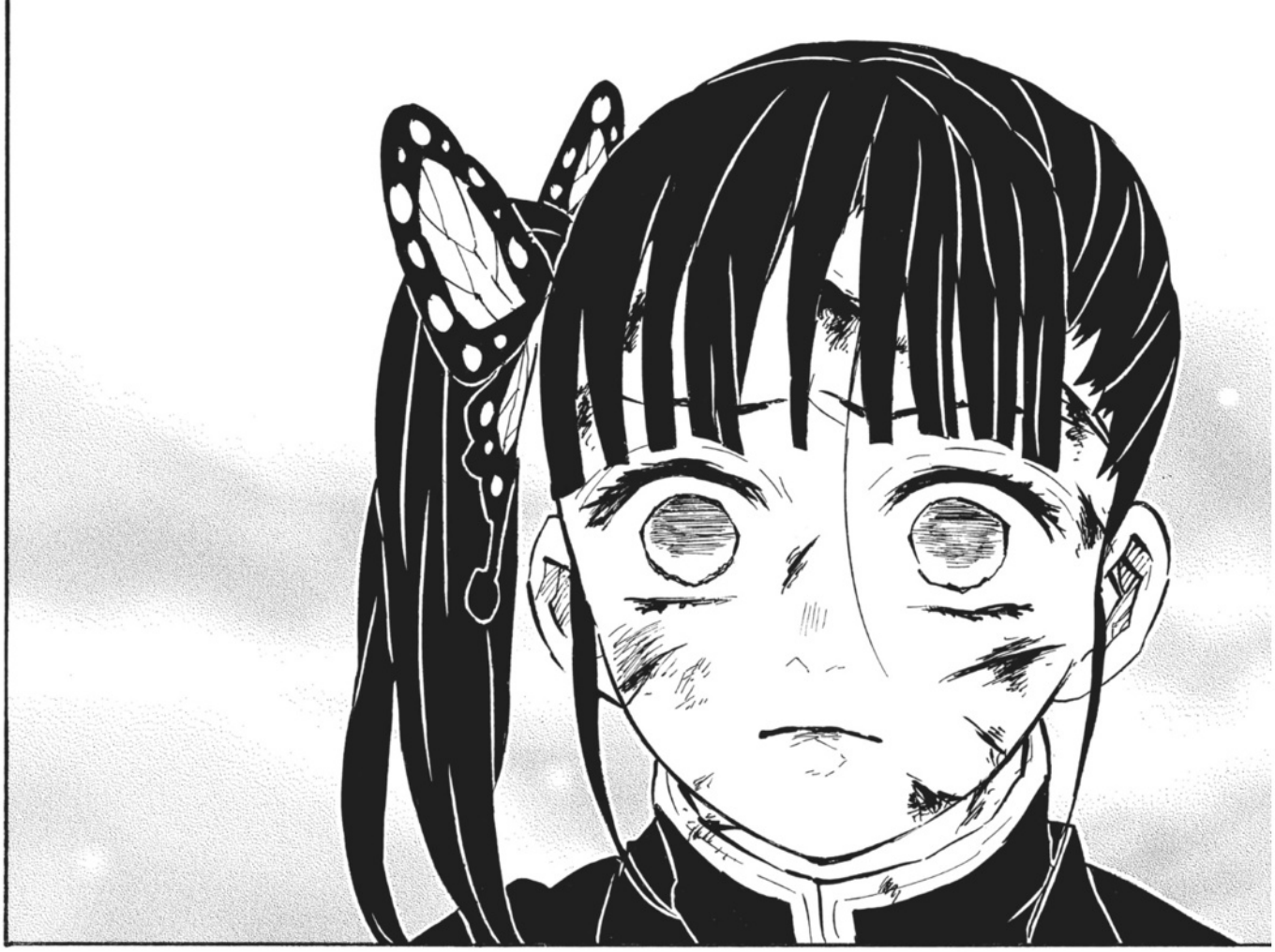

TWO!!

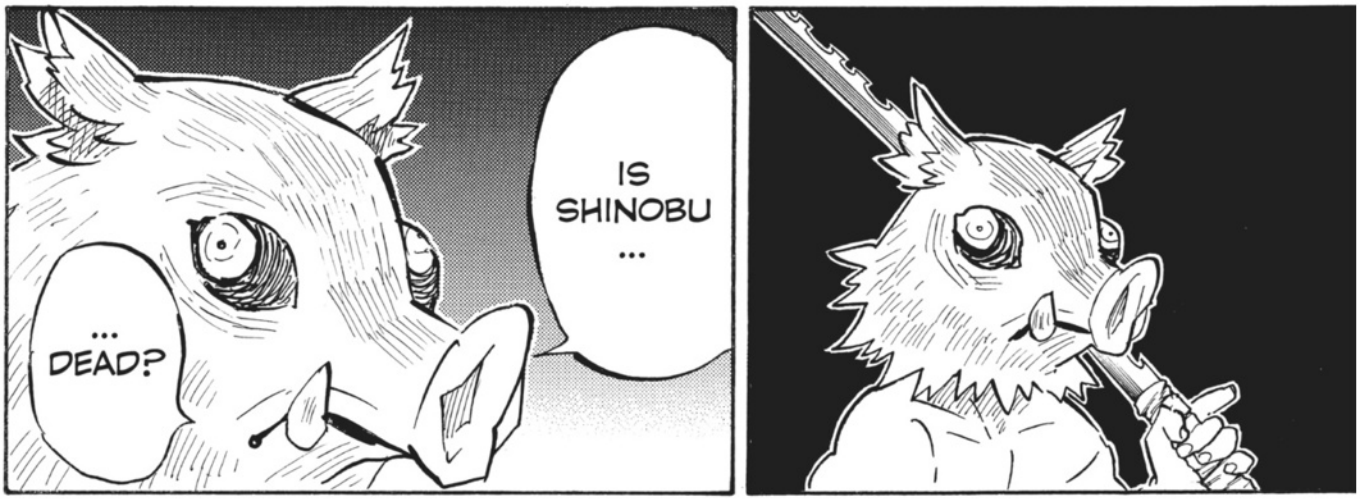
FWIP
HMM?

*EYES: UPPER 2


HA HA HA HAA!! IF I DEFEAT YOU, I'LL BE A HASHIRA!!
I KNOW YOU'RE SECOND FROM THE TOP!
YOU!! YOU'RE UPPER RANK 2! YOUR SECRET'S OUT!!

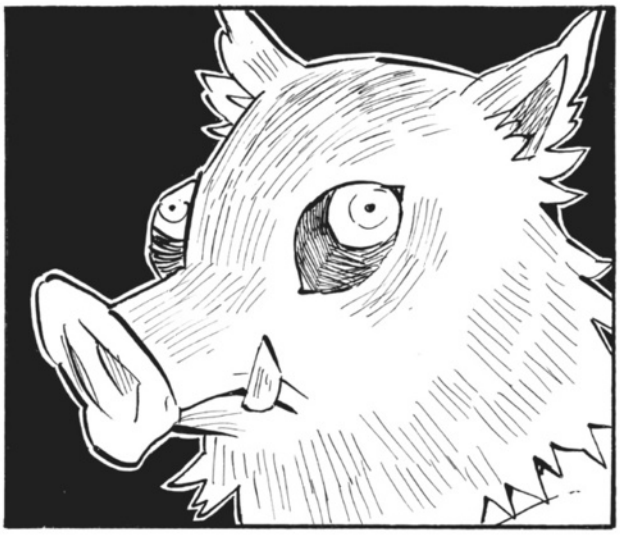
WHEN I BECOME A HASHIRA, THEY'LL CALL ME THE BEAST HASHIRA... NO, THE BOAR HASHIRA!
WHICH DO YOU THINK IS BETTER?! HEY...
YOU LOOK INTERESTING.
I DON'T EXACTLY HIDE THAT I'M UPPER RANK 2.
HRNGH ?!
AND SHE GETS *REALLY* ANGRY!!
SHINOBU'LL GET REALLY MAD AT YOU!!
IF YOU GET INJURED, YOU'LL... YOU KNOW!
SWSH SWSH
YOU... YOU'RE ALL BEATEN UP! WHAT'RE YOU DOING?!

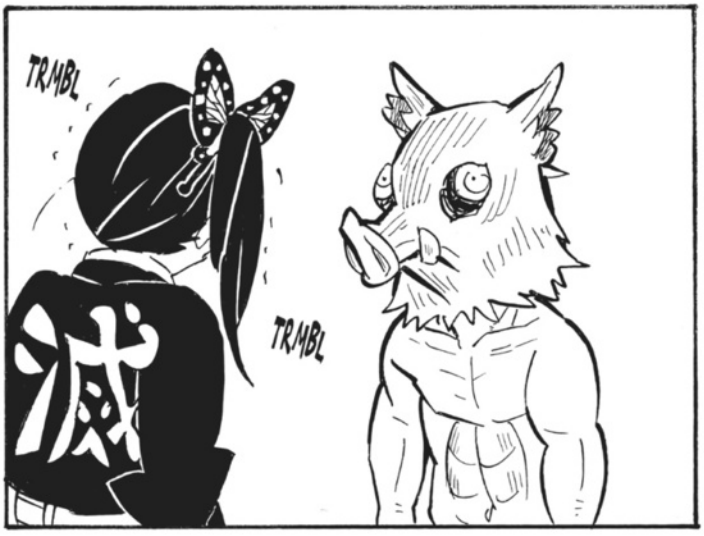



IS SHINOBU ...
... DEAD?

OF COURSE NOT! SHE'S NOT DEAD!
SHE LIVES FOREVER INSIDE ME!

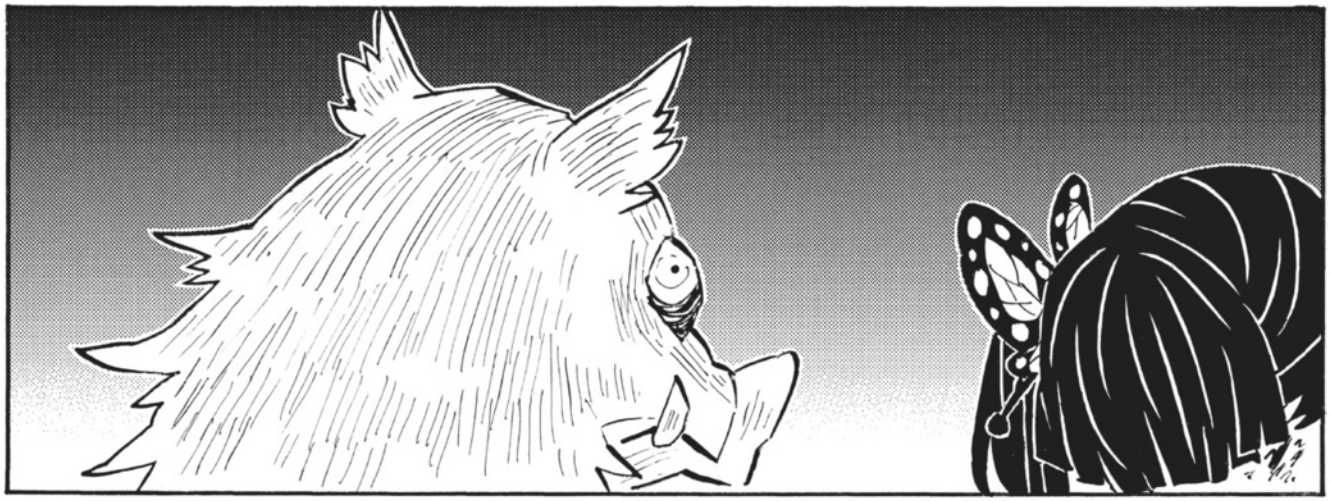
ALL THE PEOPLE I EAT ARE THAT WAY. I SAVE THEM.
THEY'RE NO LONGER IN PAIN. THEY NO LONGER SUFFER.
THEY BECOME PART OF ME AND FIND HAPPINESS.

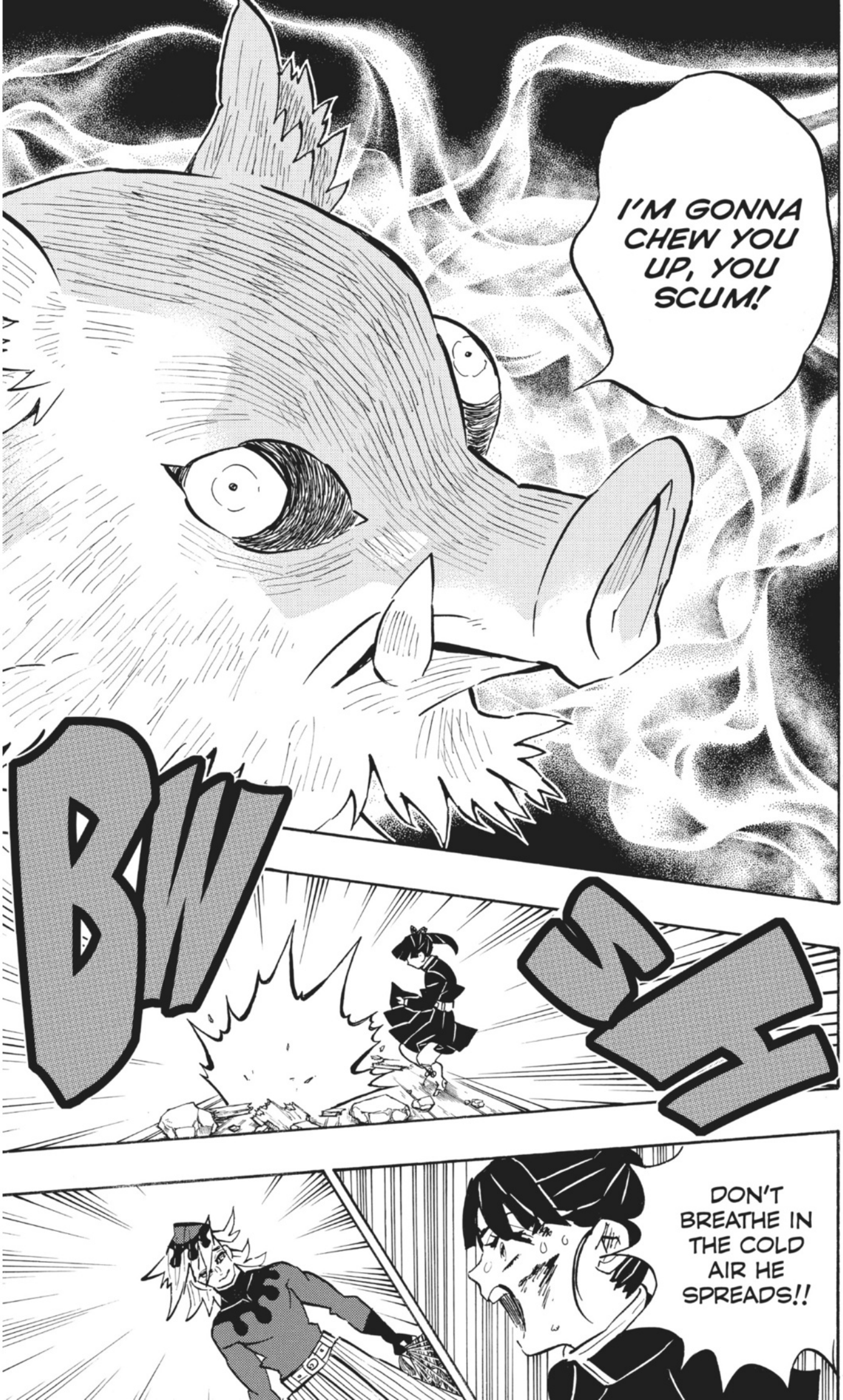



TRMBL
TRMBL

I STITCHED UP THE WOUND...
...SO DON'T TOUCH IT.
AND DON'T PULL OUT THE THREAD ON YOUR OWN.

PINKY
PROMISE!

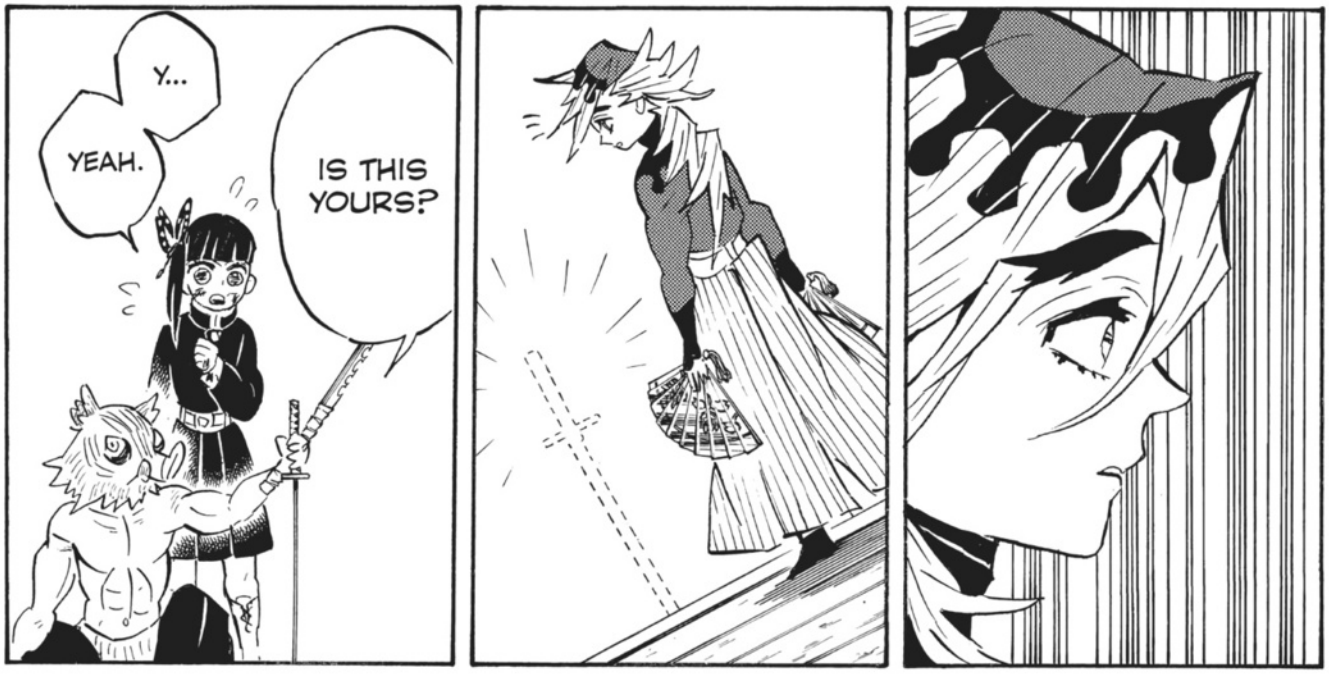


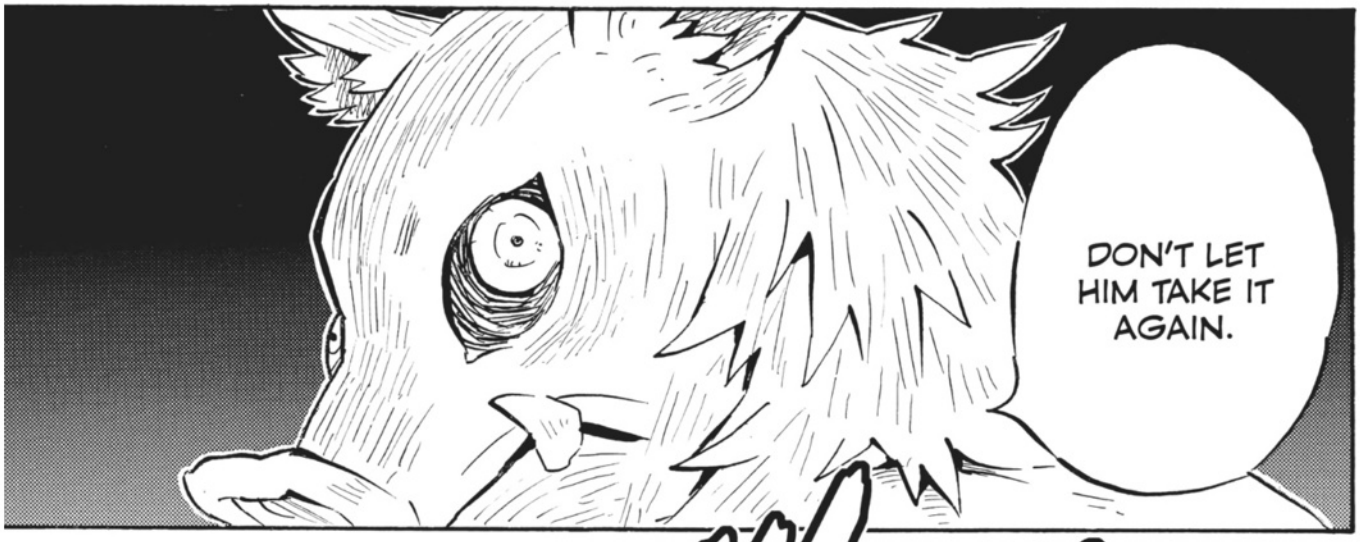

I'M GONNA CHEW YOU UP, YOU SCUM!
BITE
DON'T BREATHE IN THE COLD AIR HE SPREADS!!

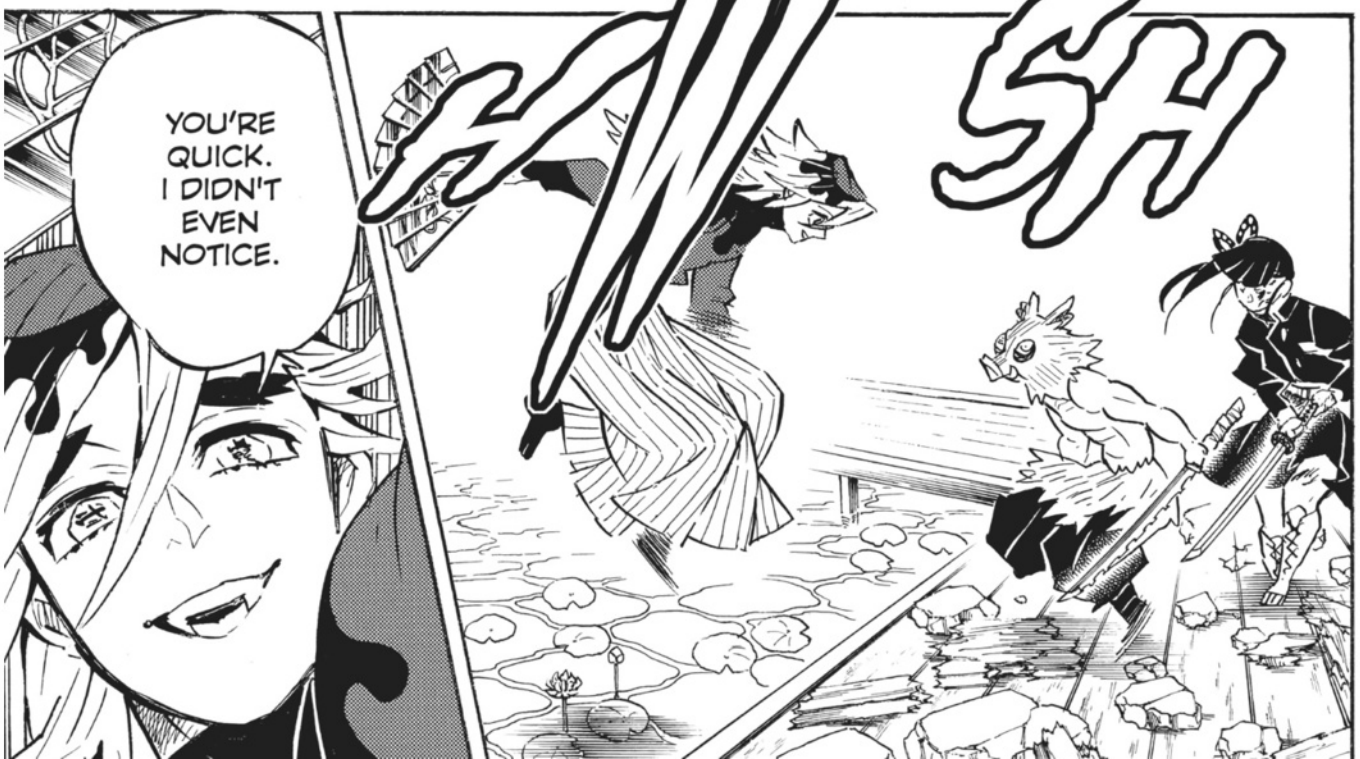
BEAST BREATHING
FOURTH FANG:
SLICE-N-DICE!!
WITH THAT CHIPPED KATANA AND YOUR STRANGE SWORDSMAN-SHIP!
AH HA HA!!
WHAT SLOPPY TECH-NIQUE!

VERY INTERESTING!

THAT HEAD IS A MASK, RIGHT?
WOW!
YOU'RE FLEXIBLE! IMPRES-SIVE!
THA
DO
YOU...
SH


IS THIS YOURS?
Y...
YEAH.


DON'T LET HIM TAKE IT AGAIN.


SLASH
YOU'RE QUICK. I DIDN'T EVEN NOTICE.

AKLANG
KILA
NG
WH
OK

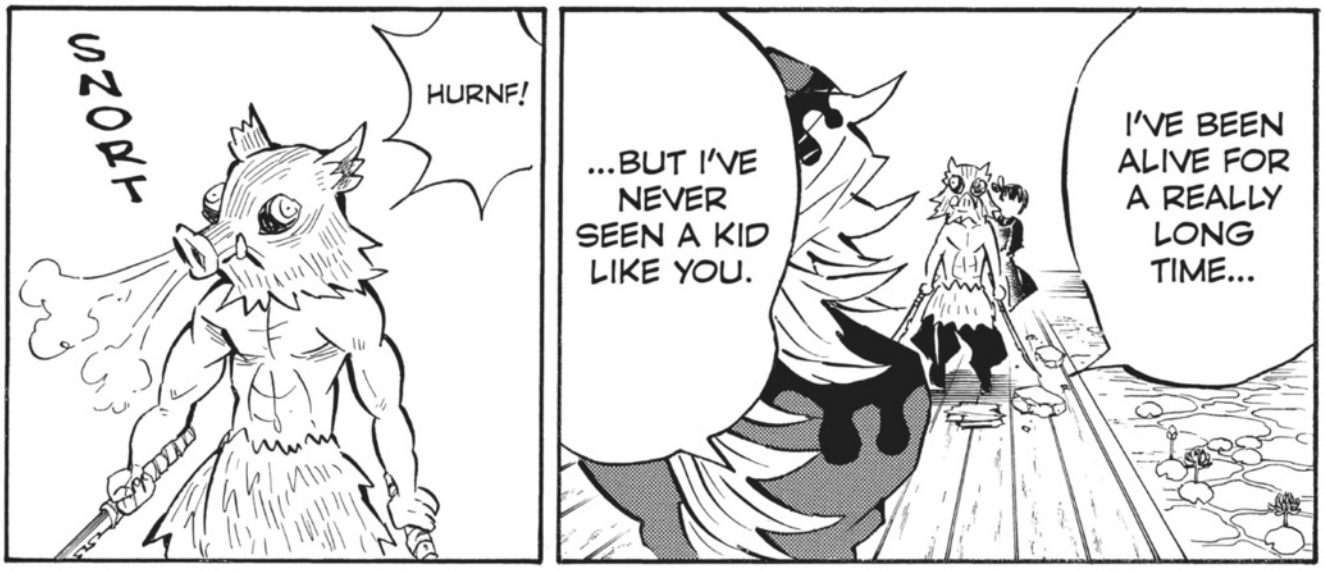
ドドド

HO
R
KE
SEE? YOU CAN'T REACH ME AT ALL...
SLA
SH

HE GOT ME WITH A SLASH!
!!
GWMP
BEAST BREATH-ING
EXTENDING BENDY SLASH!!
NINTH FANG:
GWMP

WHAT'S HE GONNA DO NEXT?
HUH? DID HE DISLOCATE ALL THE JOINTS IN HIS ARM?
SNAP
TCH!
POP
HUH ?!
NO WAY... HUH? NO WAY, NO WAY, NO WAY...
?!
I WAS AIMING FOR YOUR NECK BUT MISSED!
SNUP
ARGH!! THE PRECISION OF MY NEW TECHNIQUE STILL ISN'T SO GOOD!

AH HA HA!
SO YOU CAN IMMEDIATELY RESET YOUR JOINTS. DOESN'T THAT HURT?
RIGHT...
EVERYTHING ABOUT YOU IS REALLY...
...SLOPPY.


I'VE BEEN ALIVE FOR A REALLY LONG TIME...
...BUT I'VE NEVER SEEN A KID LIKE YOU.
SNORT
HURNF!

YEAH, OF COURSE YOU HAVEN'T. COMPARED TO THE RABBLE...
...I, LORD INOSUKE...

...AM COMPLETELY DIFFERENT!

INOSUKE !!
HH
SI

TMP
AH, I KNEW IT. IT WAS A MASK.

HMM...
THIS BOAR HIDE HAS BEEN THROUGH QUITE A LOT.
HOW DID YOU DO THE EYES?
YOU...
GIVE THAT BACK!

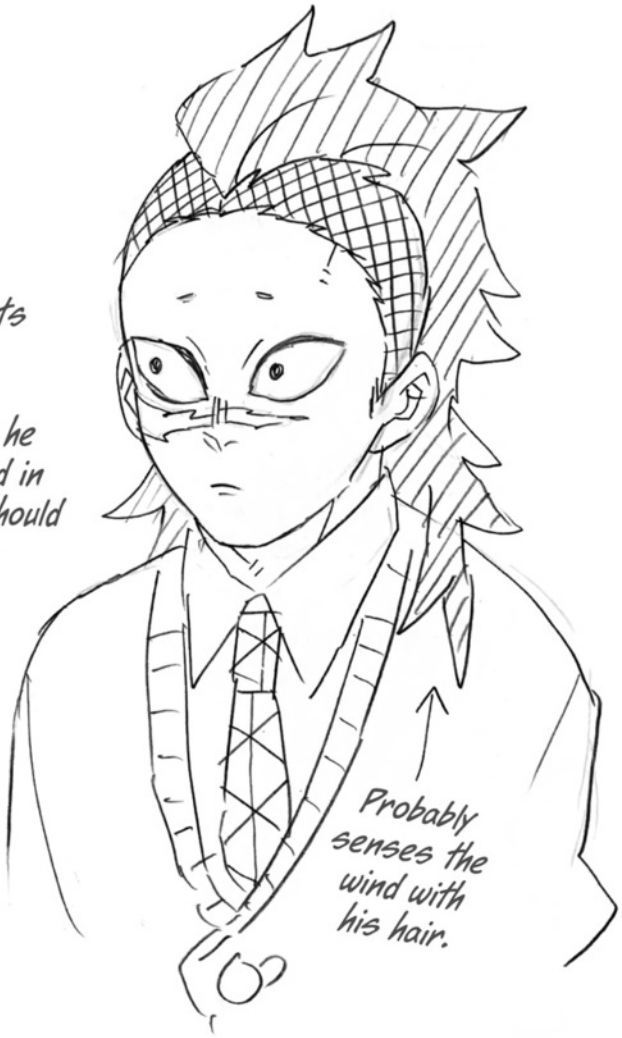
HM? I FEEL LIKE I REMEMBER...
...YOUR FACE.

JUNIOR HIGH AND HIGH SCHOOL !!
KIMETSU ACADEMY

Genya Shinazugawa (16 yrs) First-year, Class Kabosu. The ace of the marksmanship club. He's no good at math, so his older brother always gets angry at him.

He won the marksmanship competition, but when he received his award at school, his brother stepped in and broke it, saying it was useless and Genya should study math more. Genya trembled as he stood on stage. Everyone had been afraid of him because of his large size and face, but this incident made his classmates sympathize with him, so he got more friends.

His hairstyle is against school rules, but when he shaved his head, his shots stopped hitting the target, so he received special permission.



Sanemi Shinazugawa. Math teacher.

Feeling constricted around his neck stresses him out, so he always leaves his shirt unbuttoned. Once when his students said they wouldn't need math in the future, he threw them out the window like in Smash Bros. He talks to Ms. Kanae a lot, so for a while there was a plan to bump him off, but the Smash Bros. incident put an end to that. He's incredibly kind to the women, children and the elderly, but whenever he approaches children, they burst into tears. He doesn't even button his shirt for ceremonial occasions.

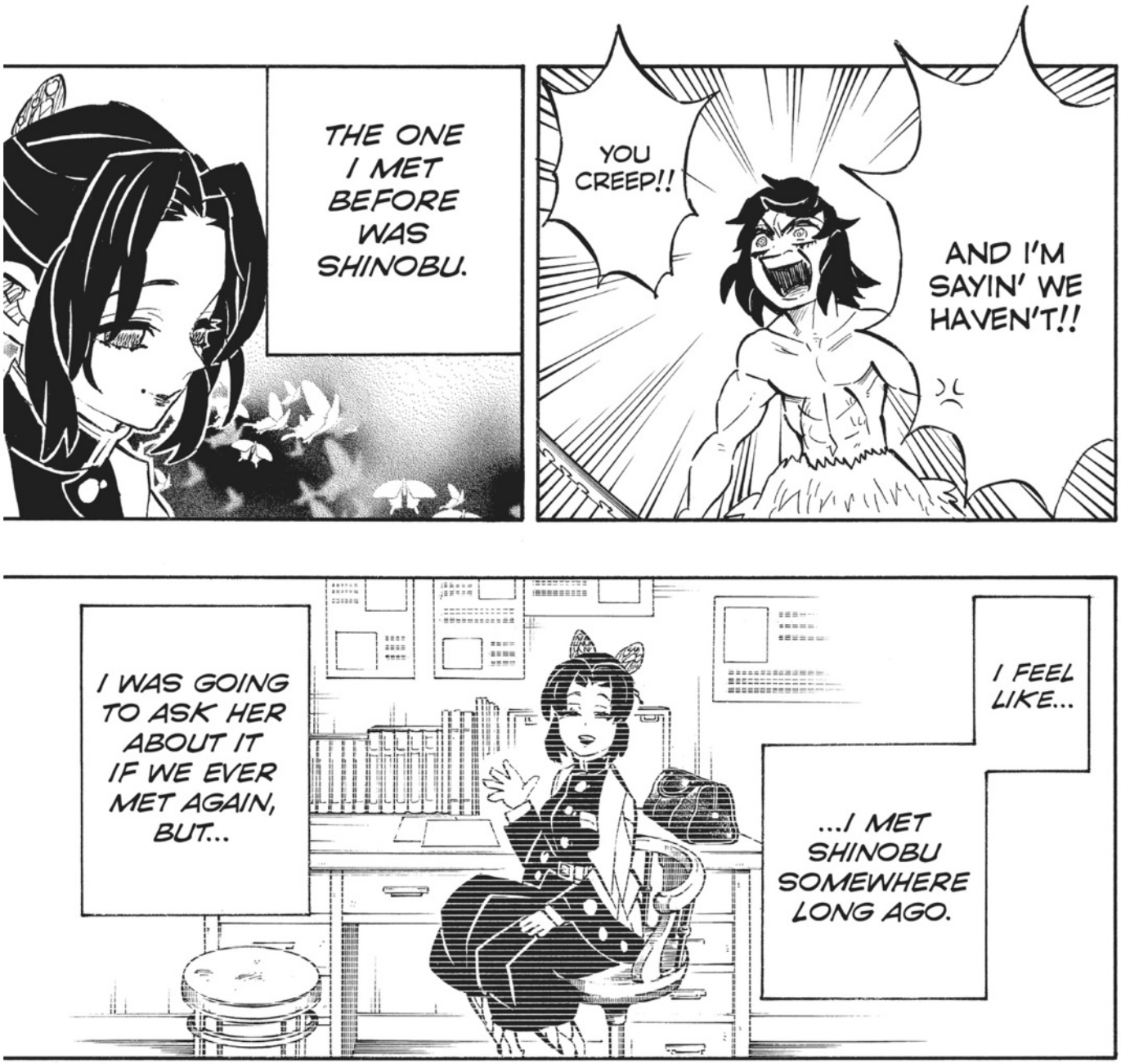
CHAPTER 160: SIMILAR FEATURES, RETURNING MEMORIES

WE'VE MET SOMEWHERE BEFORE, RIGHT?

KEEP YOUR FILTHY HANDS OFF OF MY FUR!
I DON'T REMEMBER EVER MEETING A MAGGOT LIKE YOU!

I *KNOW* YOU.
NO...
...WE *HAVE* MET.

*EYES: UPPER 2

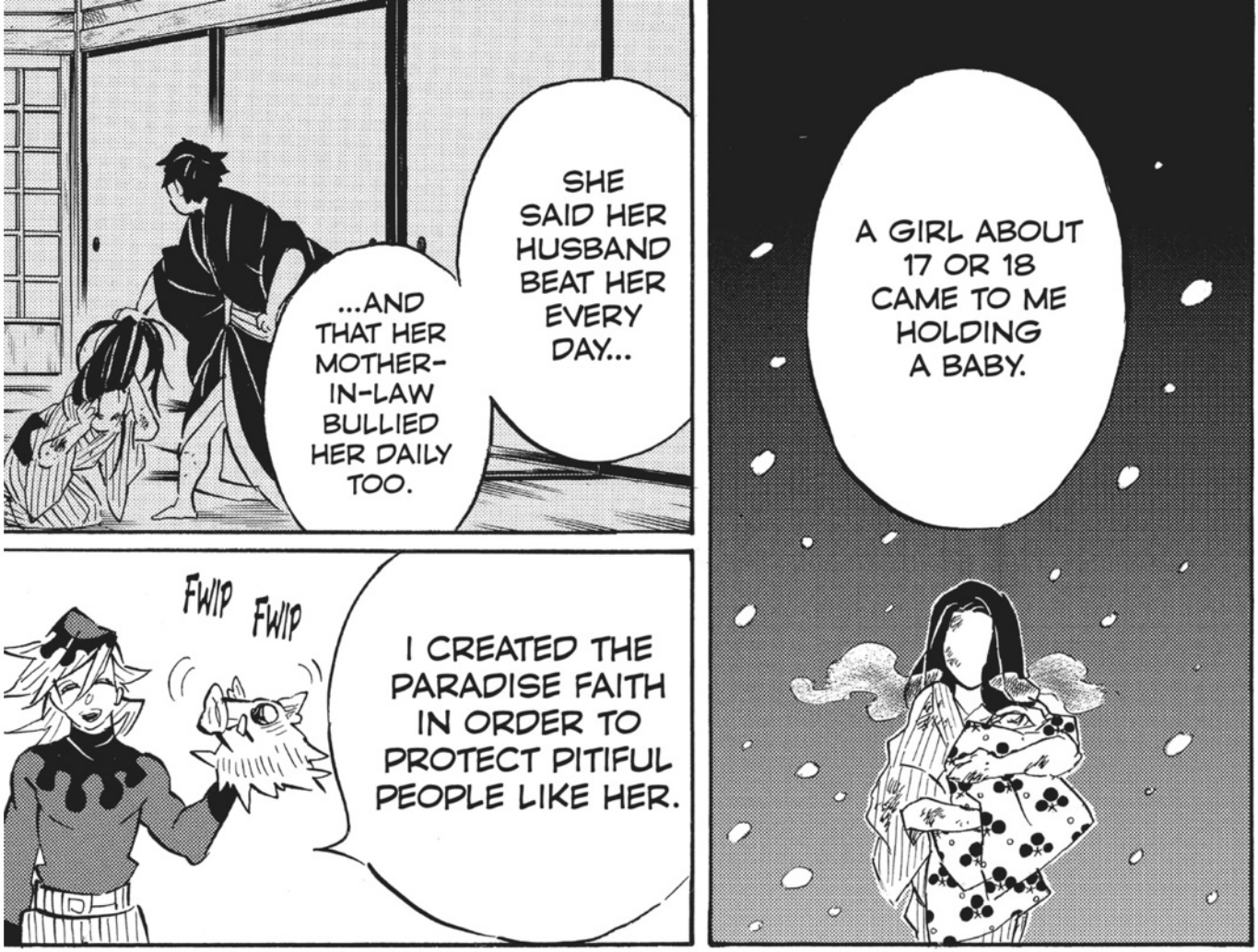

THE ONE I MET BEFORE WAS SHINOBU.
YOU CREEP!!
AND I'M SAYIN' WE HAVEN'T!!
I WAS GOING TO ASK HER ABOUT IT IF WE EVER MET AGAIN, BUT...
I FEEL LIKE...
...I MET SHINOBU SOMEWHERE LONG AGO.
POKE
AND I HAVE A GOOD MEMORY.
I EVEN REMEMBER THE TIME WHEN I WAS STILL HUMAN REALLY WELL.
MY ONLY MERIT IS THAT I'M SERIOUS.
NON-SENSE? THAT HURTS.
STAY CALM, INOSUKE.
GRRR
HE'S JUST SPOUTING NONSENSE.

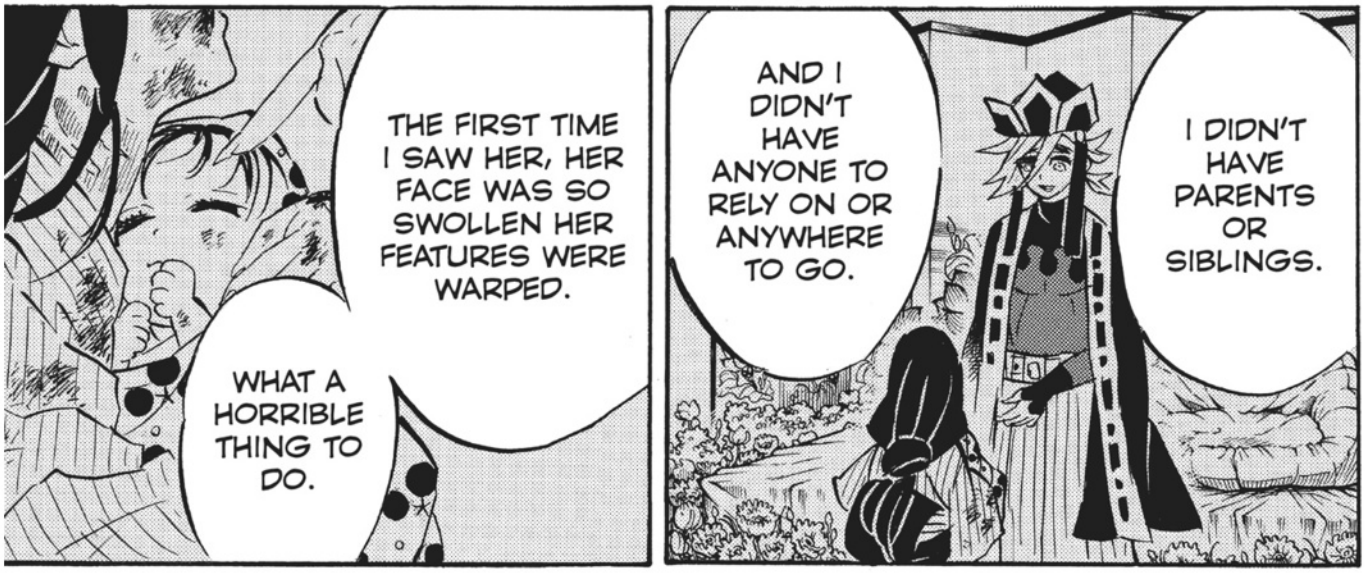
SPLO
RK

WHAT'RE YOU DOING?! ARRRGH!!
YUUUCK!!

WAS IT ONLY 15 YEARS AGO? THAT'S FAIRLY RECENT.
OH! THIS IS IT!

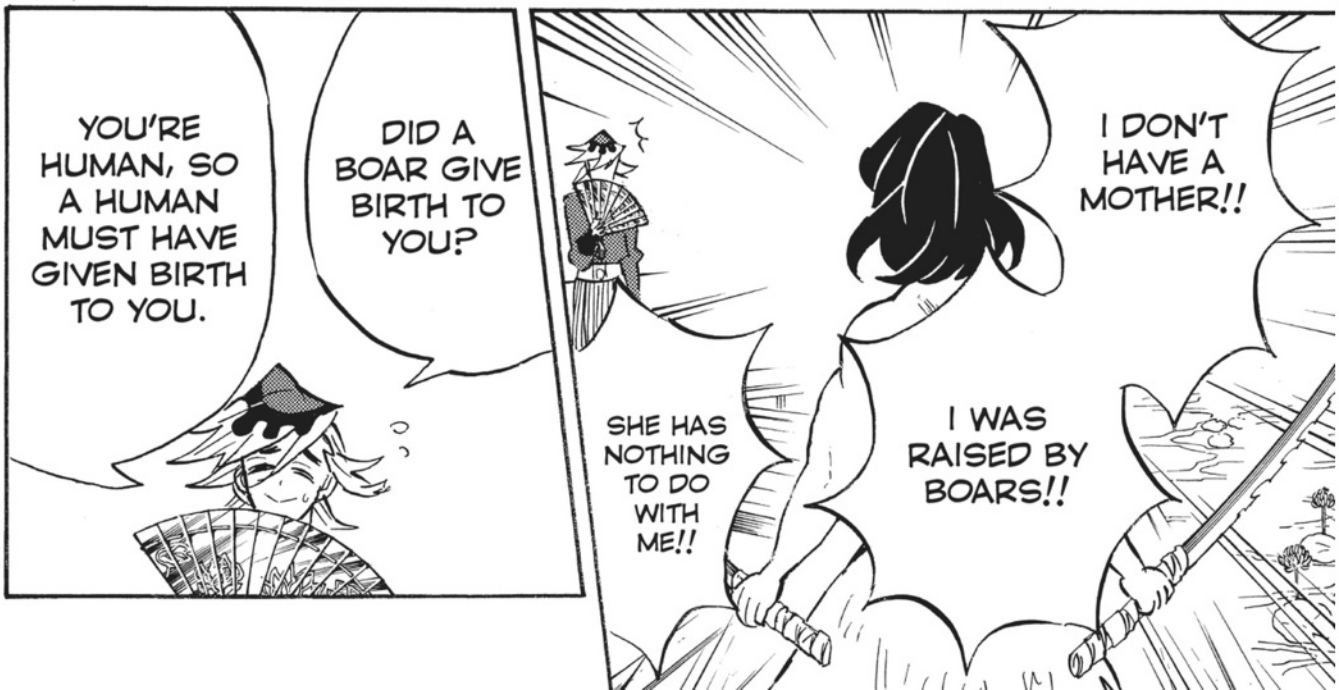
HRMMM ...?
POKE POKE
HMM...
POKE


SHE SAID HER HUSBAND BEAT HER EVERY DAY...
...AND THAT HER MOTHER-IN-LAW BULLIED HER DAILY TOO.
A GIRL ABOUT 17 OR 18 CAME TO ME HOLDING A BABY.
FWIP FWIP
I CREATED THE PARADISE FAITH IN ORDER TO PROTECT PITIFUL PEOPLE LIKE HER.


THE FIRST TIME I SAW HER, HER FACE WAS SO SWOLLEN HER FEATURES WERE WARPED.
WHAT A HORRIBLE THING TO DO.
AND I DIDN'T HAVE ANYONE TO RELY ON OR ANYWHERE TO GO.
I DIDN'T HAVE PARENTS OR SIBLINGS.

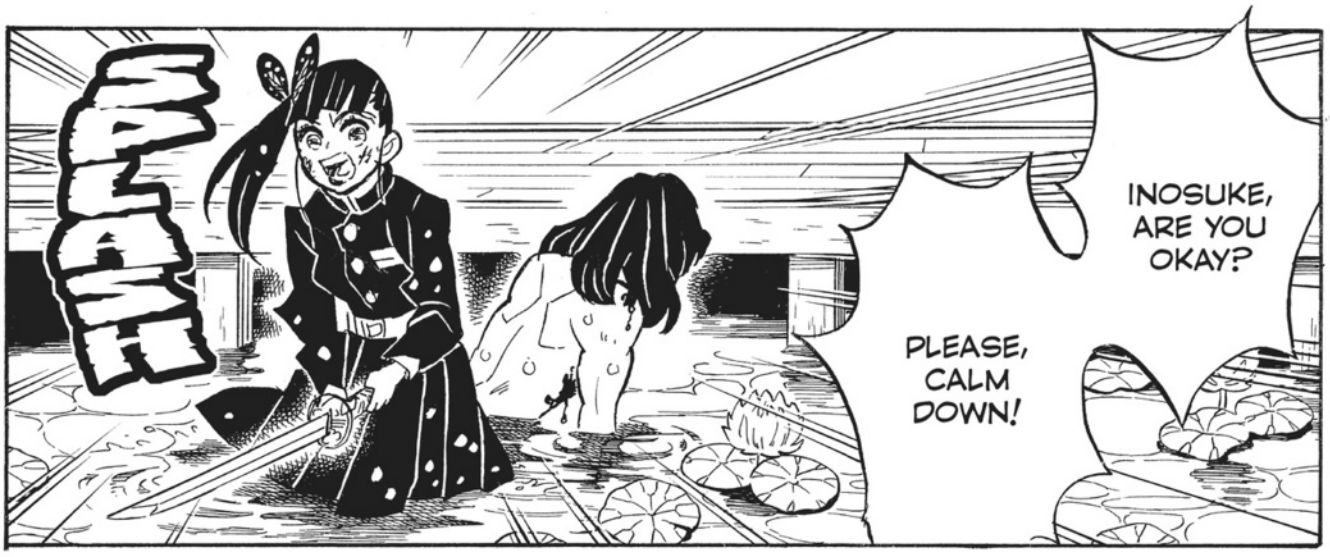
...RETURNED TO NORMAL AFTER TREATMENT. SHE WAS PRETTY, SO SHE MADE A LASTING IMPRESSION ON ME.
...BUT HER FACE...
SHE HAD GONE BLIND IN ONE EYE BECAUSE OF HER HUSBAND BEATING HER...

...I BET SHE WAS YOUR MOTHER.
YES, YES! THERE'S NO DOUBT ABOUT IT!
SHE HAD THE SAME FACE AS YOU.
IT WAS MORE DELICATE AND HAD SOFTER FEATURES, BUT...


YOU'RE HUMAN, SO A HUMAN MUST HAVE GIVEN BIRTH TO YOU.
DID A BOAR GIVE BIRTH TO YOU?
I DON'T HAVE A MOTHER!!
SHE HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH ME!!
I WAS RAISED BY BOARS!!

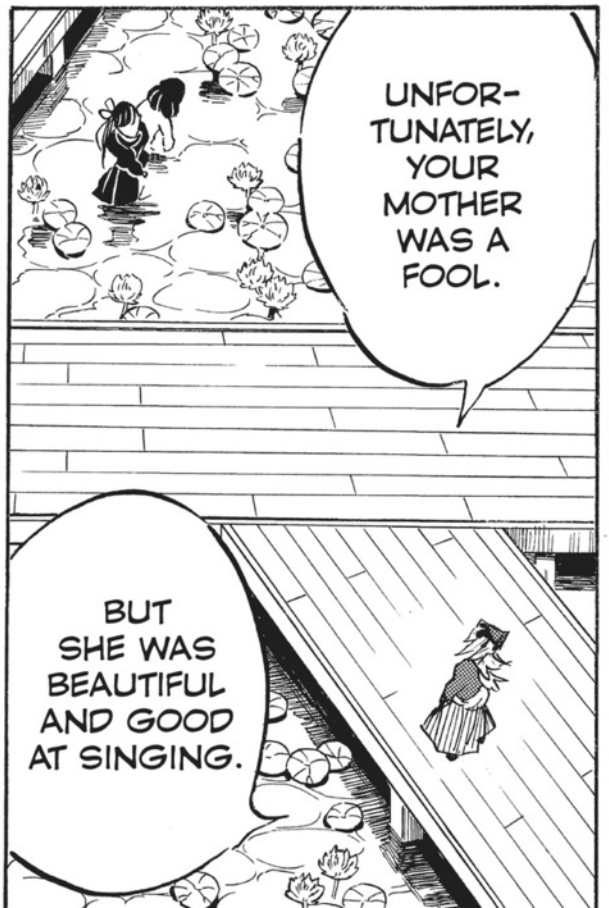
SHUT UP, SCUM!! GIVE THAT BACK!!
INO—
SIXTH FANG!
BEAST BREATHING
FATE BRINGING US TOGETHER IS A MIRACLE.
LISTEN TO MY STORY TO THE END.

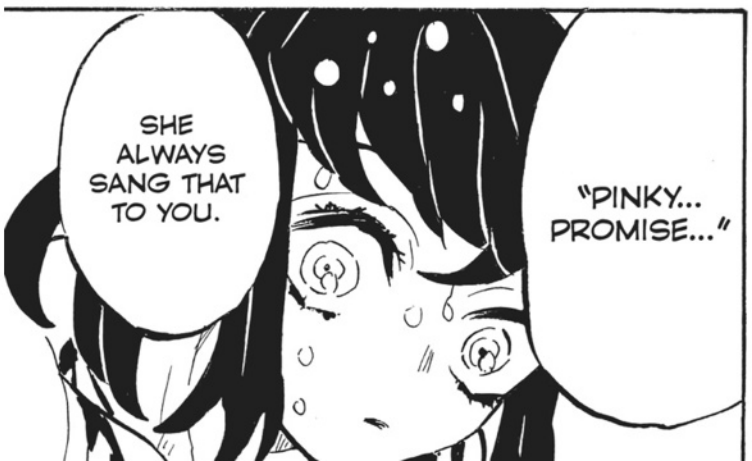
ブラッド
ブリード


SPLAT
INOSUKE, ARE YOU OKAY?
PLEASE, CALM DOWN!

I DIDN'T INTEND...
...TO EAT YOUR MOTHER.
IT FEELS GOOD TO HAVE SOMEONE SO PURE BY YOUR SIDE, RIGHT?

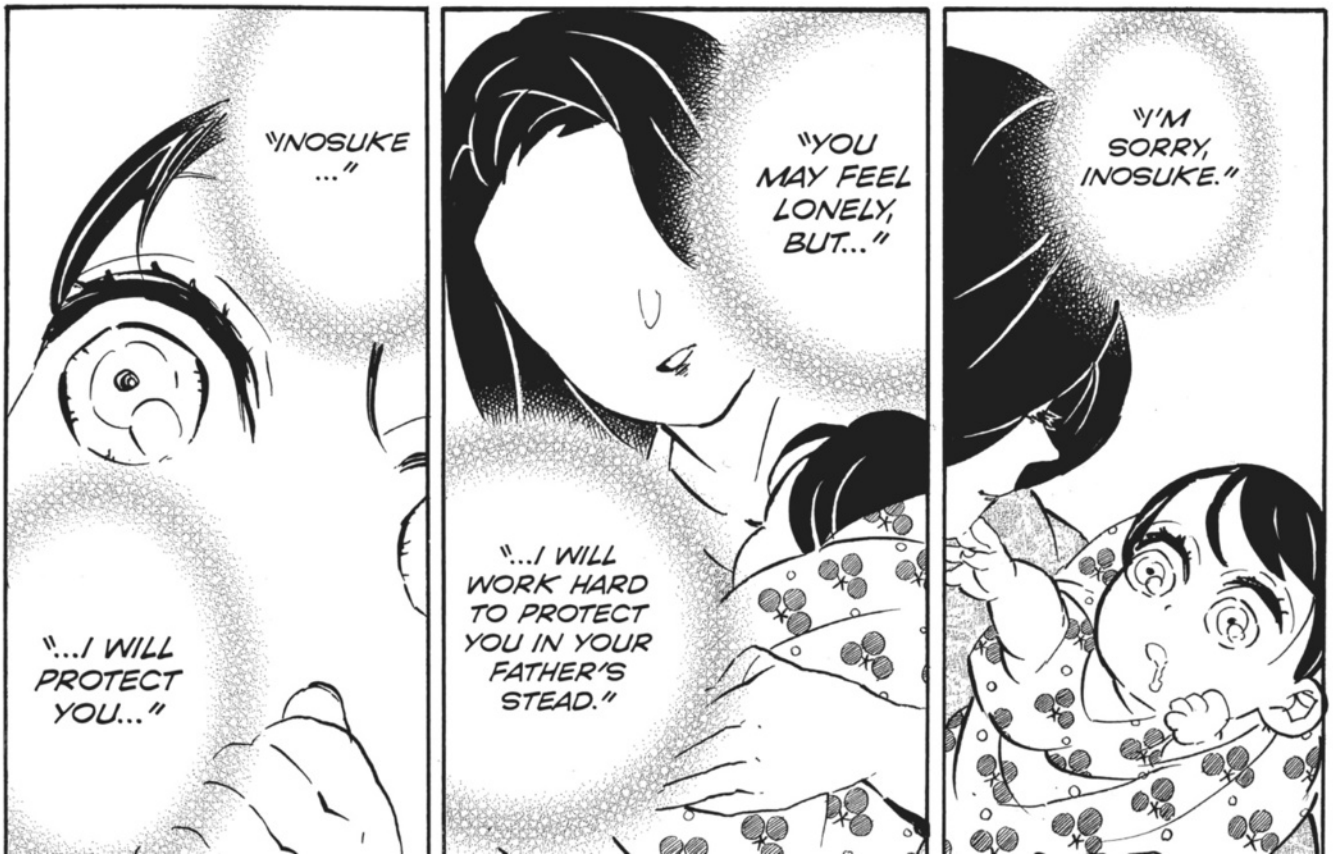
SHE OFTEN HELD YOU AND SANG TO YOU.
I DON'T KNOW WHY, BUT INSTEAD OF LULLABIES, SHE SANG ABOUT PINKY PROMISES.
DRIP
DRIP

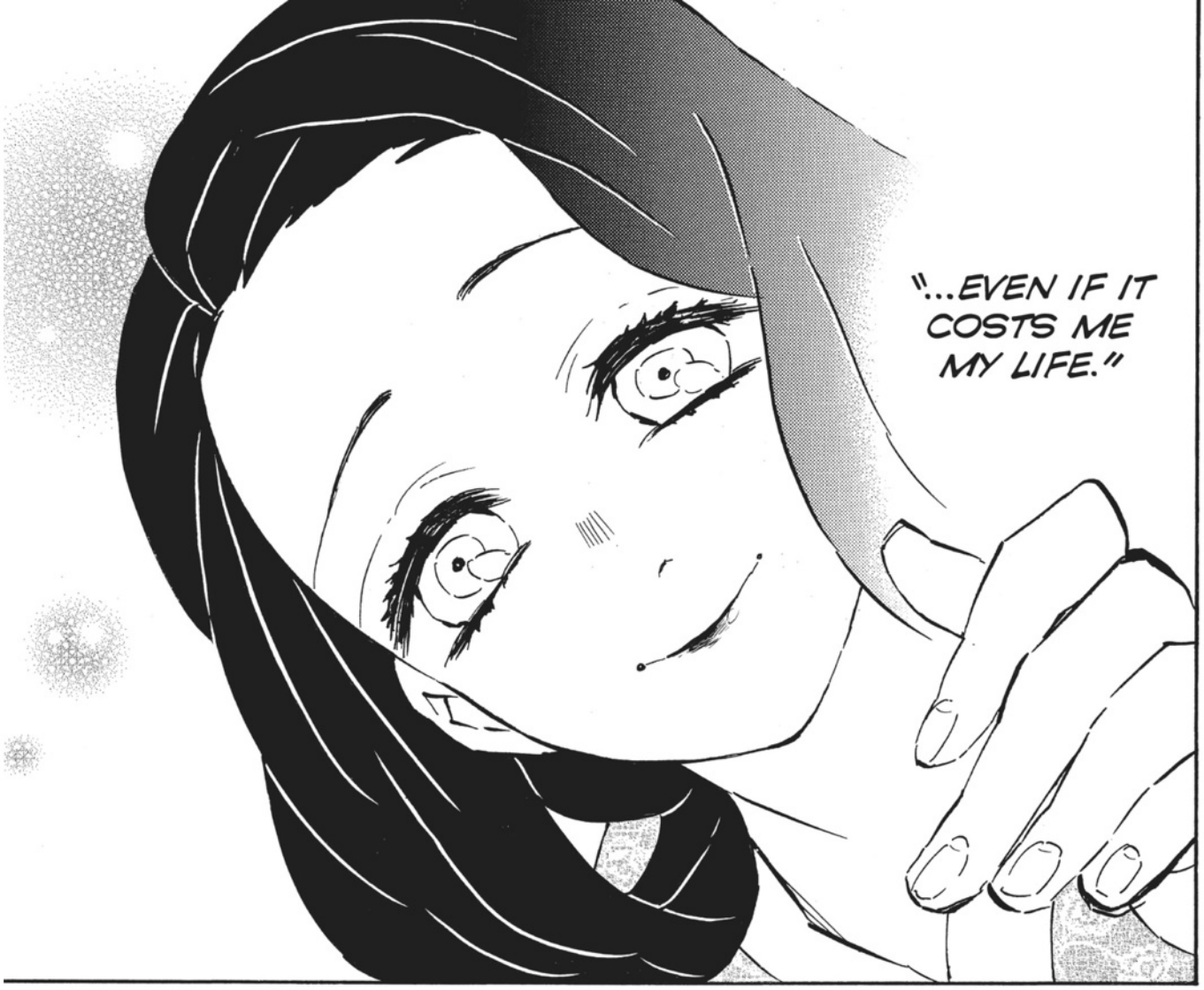

UNFORTUNATELY, YOUR MOTHER WAS A FOOL.
BUT SHE WAS BEAUTIFUL AND GOOD AT SINGING.

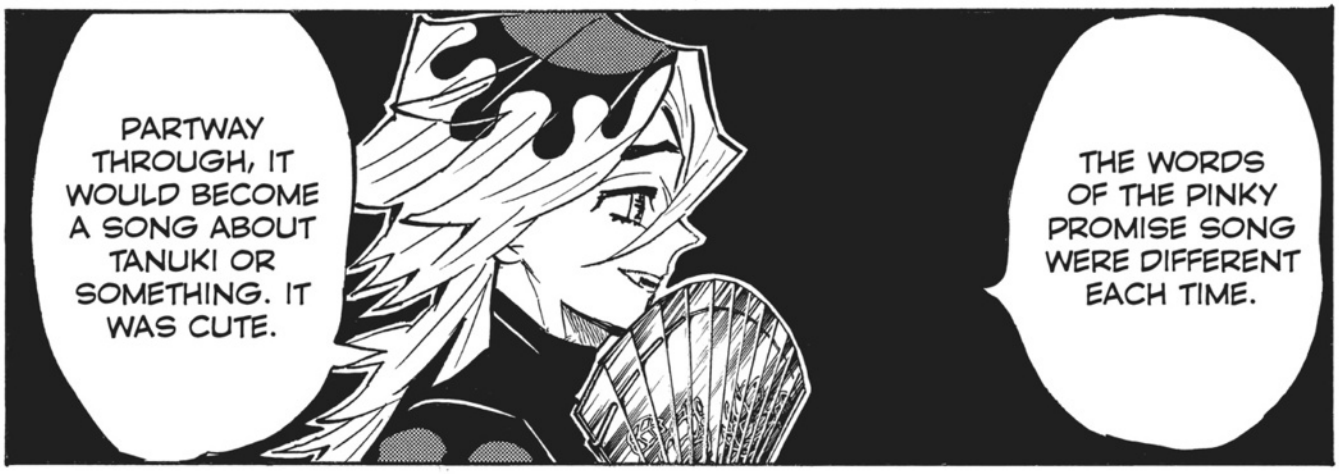

"PINKY... PROMISE..."
SHE ALWAYS SANG THAT TO YOU.

"...PROMISE."
"PINKY..."

"...YOUR MOTHER WILL PROTECT YOU ALL ALONE."
"UNTIL YOU GET BIG..."
"I WILL PROTECT YOU. I PROMISE."

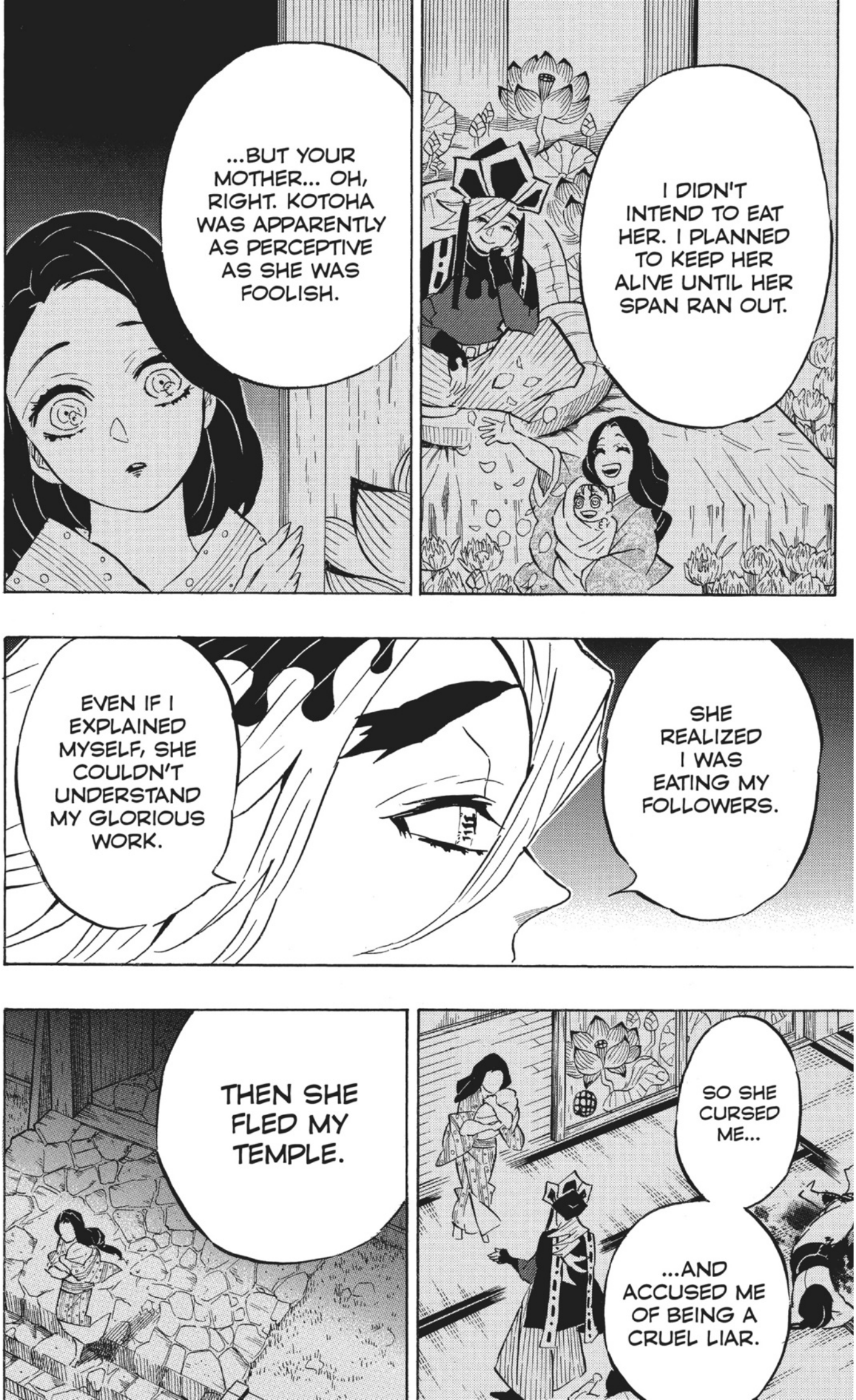

"INOSUKE ..."
"...I WILL PROTECT YOU..."
"YOU MAY FEEL LONELY, BUT..."
"...I WILL WORK HARD TO PROTECT YOU IN YOUR FATHER'S STEAD."
"I'M SORRY, INOSUKE."


"...EVEN IF IT COSTS ME MY LIFE."

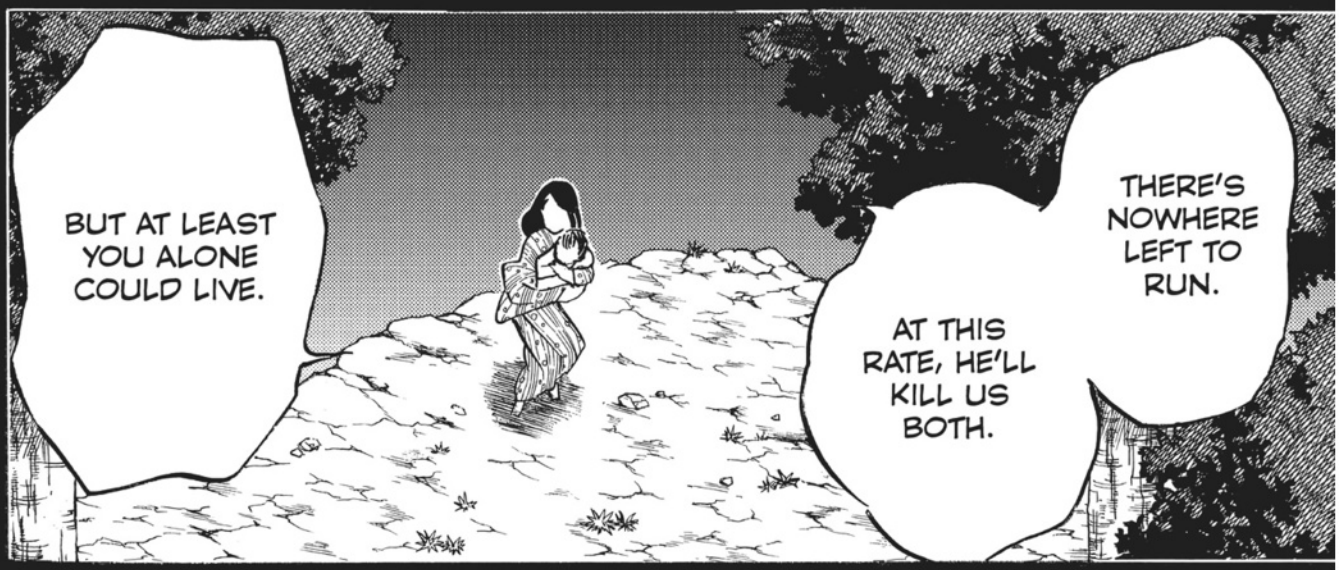

THE WORDS OF THE PINKY PROMISE SONG WERE DIFFERENT EACH TIME.
PARTWAY THROUGH, IT WOULD BECOME A SONG ABOUT TANUKI OR SOMETHING. IT WAS CUTE.

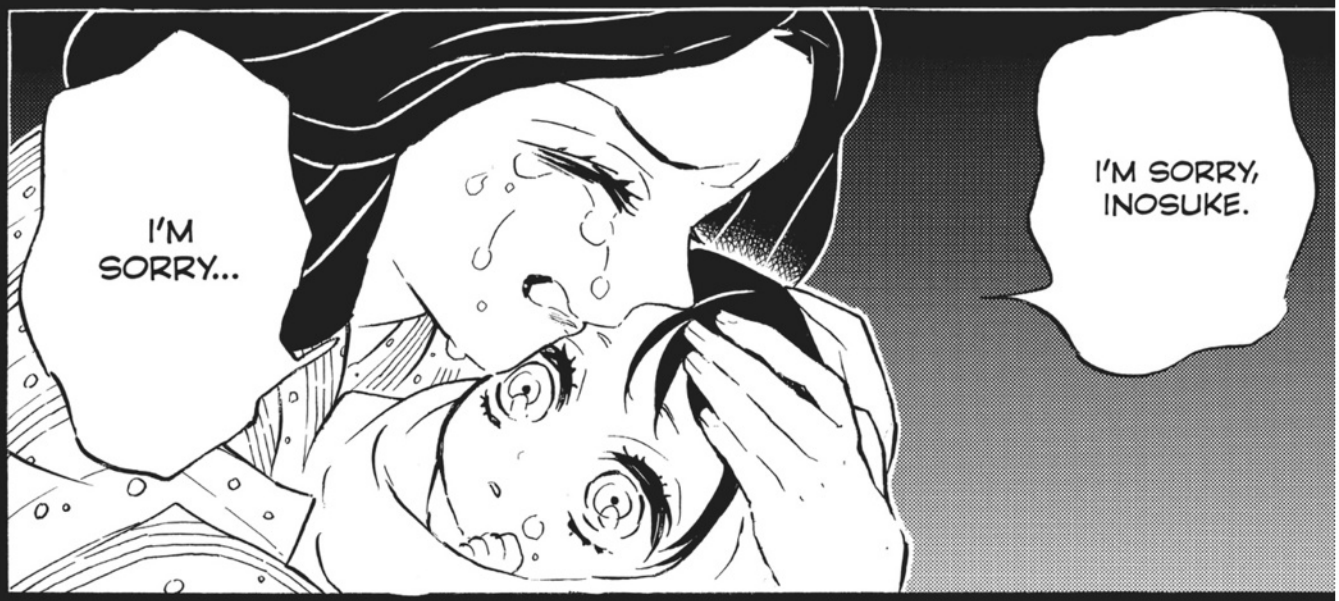
IT WASN'T SHINOBU.
I THOUGHT IT WAS HER, BUT IT WASN'T.

BA
BA
BA
BA


...BUT YOUR MOTHER... OH, RIGHT. KOTOHA WAS APPARENTLY AS PERCEPTIVE AS SHE WAS FOOLISH.
I DIDN'T INTEND TO EAT HER. I PLANNED TO KEEP HER ALIVE UNTIL HER SPAN RAN OUT.
EVEN IF I EXPLAINED MYSELF, SHE COULDN'T UNDERSTAND MY GLORIOUS WORK.
SHE REALIZED I WAS EATING MY FOLLOWERS.
THEN SHE FLED MY TEMPLE.
SO SHE CURSED ME...
...AND ACCUSED ME OF BEING A CRUEL LIAR.

HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
I'M SORRY, INOSUKE.
I'M SORRY YOUR MOTHER IS SO FOOLISH.
I'M YOUR MOTHER, BUT...
I MUST TAKE GOOD CARE OF YOU, BUT...
I'M SORRY, I'M SORRY...
I ALWAYS GO TO SOMEONE BAD.
I ALWAYS FAIL.
WHAT SHOULD I DO? I'M SORRY... I'M SORRY...
WHICH WAY IS IT TO A VILLAGE?
OH NO... I DON'T KNOW THE WAY. I'M LOST...

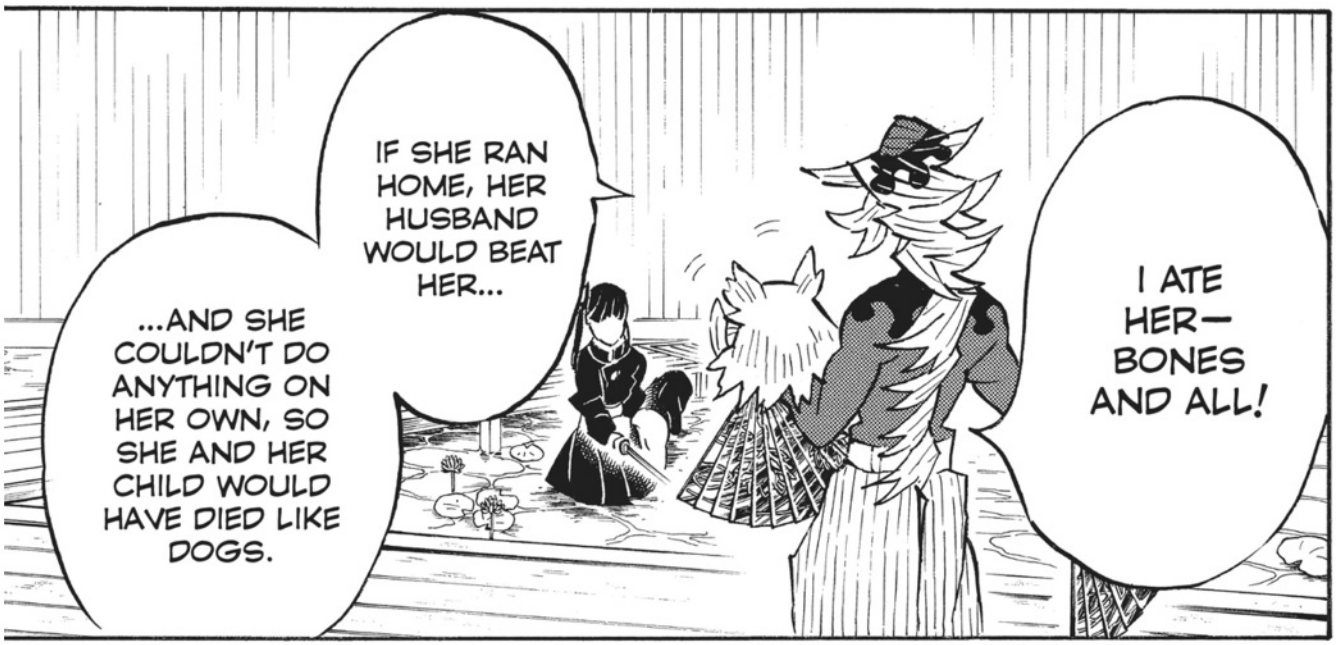

THERE'S NOWHERE LEFT TO RUN.
AT THIS RATE, HE'LL KILL US BOTH.
BUT AT LEAST YOU ALONE COULD LIVE.

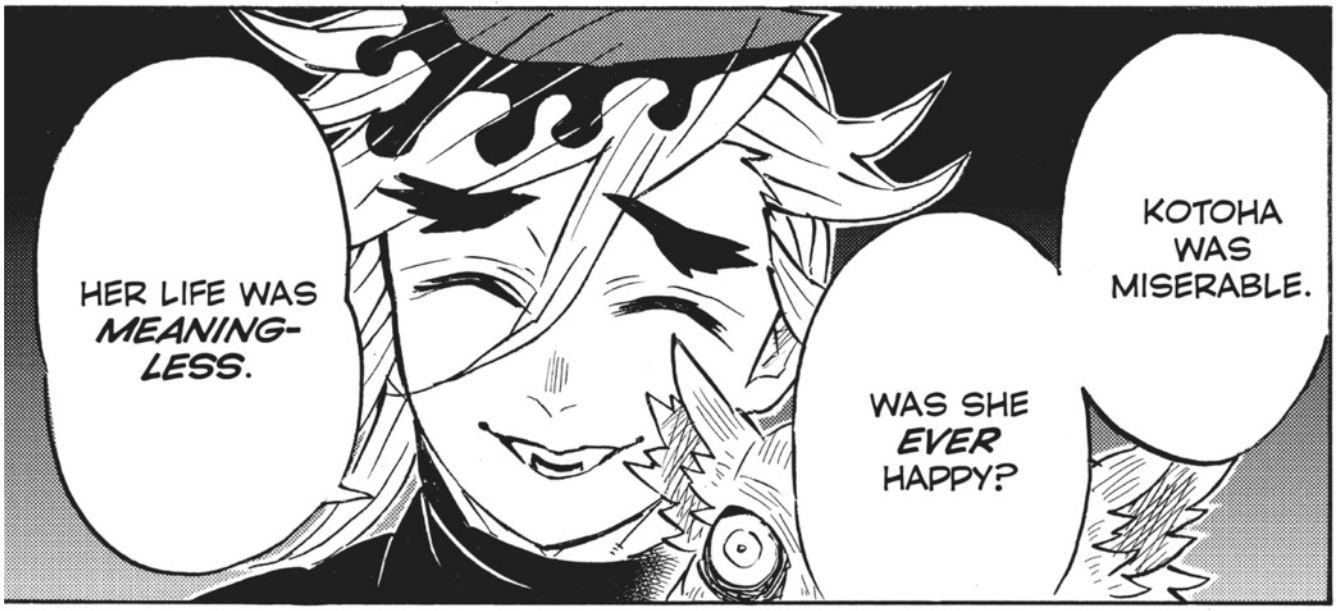

I'M SORRY, INOSUKE.
I'M SORRY...

THUD
BAM

YOU WERE FOOLISH TO THE END.
THERE'S NO WAY HE COULD SURVIVE ALONE OUT HERE.
HOW PITIFUL...
DYING BECAUSE HIS MOTHER DROPPED HIM FROM A CLIFF.

SPLT
GLUB
GLUB
HE KILLED...
...MY...
... MOTHER ...


I ATE HER— BONES AND ALL!
IF SHE RAN HOME, HER HUSBAND WOULD BEAT HER...
...AND SHE COULDN'T DO ANYTHING ON HER OWN, SO SHE AND HER CHILD WOULD HAVE DIED LIKE DOGS.


KOTOHA WAS MISERABLE.
WAS SHE *EVER* HAPPY?
HER LIFE WAS *MEANING-LESS*.

SHUT UP!!
YOU JERK !!
"YOUR SMALL HANDS..."
"...ARE SO CUTE, INOSUKE."

"YOU'RE EVERYTHING TO ME."
"YOU'RE SO WARM, INOSUKE."
"I'M SO HAPPY I CAN BE WITH YOU."
...REALLY IS A MIRACLE.
FATE BRINGING US TOGETHER ...

...IS RIGHT BEFORE MY EYES!!
AFTER ALL, THE DEMON WHO KILLED...
...MY MOTHER AND MY FRIEND ...
I'M GONNA SEND YOU TO HELL!!
YOU HAVE MY GRATITUDE FOR MAKING ME REMEMBER.
JUST CUTTING OFF YOUR HEAD WON'T BE ENOUGH!!

VOLUME 18—
ASSAULTED BY MEMORIES (END)